

A NEW
HISTORY
OF
ENGLAND,

FROM THE
DESCENT of the ROMANS,
TO THE
DEMISE of his late Majesty, GEORGE II.

INSCRIBED TO
His present Majesty, GEORGE III.

By WILLIAM RIDER, A. B.
Late of *Jesus College, Oxford.*

HISTORY is *philosophy teaching by examples.*
Bolingbroke from Dion. Hali.

VOL. XLIII.

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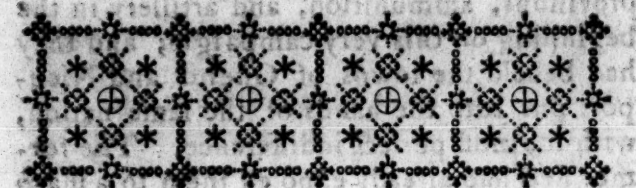
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ENCLOSURE

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THE
History of ENGLAND.



The HISTORY of GEORGE II.
continued. A. D. 1757.



HE conduct of the Dutch, during the whole course of the war that now raged in Europe, was poor and pusillanimous to the last degree. They had, with surprising facility, granted the French a free passage through Namur and Maestricht, for their

4 *The History of* ENGLAND.

provisions, ammunition, and artillery in the beginning of this very campaign; and they had beheld the towns of Ostend and Nieuport put into the hands of the same nation, with the most perfect indifference. The former step had already exposed them to a sharp remonstrance from the court of London; and the latter now drew upon them another representation no less spirited from the same quarter, delivered by colonel Yorke, his Britannic majesty's minister at the Hague. It was conceived in the following terms.

“ Considering the critical situation which Europe has been in during the course of this year, in consequence of measures concerted to embroil all Europe, the king of Great Britain, was willing to flatter himself, that the courts of Vienna and Versailles, out of regard to the circumpect conduct observed by your High Mightinesses, would have at least informed you of the changes they have thought proper to make in the Austrians Netherlands.

“ It was with the utmost surprize the king heard, that, without any previous consent of yours, and almost without giving you any notice, the court of Vienna had thought proper to put the towns of Ostend and Nieuport into the hands of the French troops, and to withdraw her own, as well as her

her artillery and stores, whilst France continues to send thither a formidable quantity of both.

“ The conduct of the court of Vienna towards his majesty, is indeed so unmerited, and so extraordinary, that it is difficult to find words to express it: but whatever fallacious pretexts she may have made use of to palliate her behaviour towards England, it doth not appear that they can be extended so far as to excuse the infringement, in concert with France, of the most solemn treaties between her and your High Mightinesses.

“ The king never doubted, that your High Mightinesses would have made proper representations to the two courts, newly allied, to demonstrate the injustice of such a proceeding, and the danger that might afterwards result from it.

“ Your High Mightinesses will have perceived, that your silence on the first step, encouraged the two courts, newly allied, to attempt others; and who can say where they will stop? The pretext at first was, the need which the Empress queen stood in of the troops for the war kindled in the empire, and the necessity of providing for the safety of those important places, and afterwards of their imaginary danger from England.

“ But, High and Mighty Lords, it is but too evident, that the two powers, who have taken these measures in concert, have other projects in view, and have made new regulations with regard to that country, which cannot but alarm the neighbouring states.

“ The late demand made to your High Mightinesses, of a passage for a large train of warlike implements thro’ some of the barrier towns, in order to be sent to Ostend and Nieuport, could not fail to awaken the king’s attention. The sincere friendship, and parity of interests, of Great Britain and Holland, require that they should no longer keep silence, lest, in the issue, it should be considered as a tacit consent, and as a relinquishment of all our rights.

“ The king commands me, therefore, to recall to your High Mightinesses the two-fold right you have acquired to keep the Austrian Netherlands under the government of the house of Austria; and that no other has a title to make the least alteration therein, without the consent of your High Mightinesses; unless the new allies have resolved to set aside all prior treaties, and to dispose at pleasure of every thing that may suit their private interest.

“ In the treaty between your High Mightinesses and the crown of France, signed

ed at Utrecht on the eleventh of April, 1713, in the fifteenth article, are these words : " It is also agreed that no province, fort, town, or city of the said Netherlands, or of those which are given up by his Catholic majesty, shall ever be ceded, transferred, or given, or shall ever devolve to the crown of France, or any prince or princess of the house or line of France, either by virtue of any gift, exchange, marriage-contract, succession by will, or by any other title whatever, to the power and authority of the most Christian king, or of any prince or princess of the house or line of France."

" In the barrier-treaty these very stipulations are repeated in the first article : " His Imperial and Catholic majesty promises and engages, that no province, city, town, fortress, or territory of the said country shall be ceded, transferred, given, or devolve to the crown of France, or to any other but the successor of the German dominions of the house of Austria, either by donation, sale, exchange, or marriage-contract, heritage, testamentary succession, nor under any other pretext whatsoever ; so that no province, town, fortress, or territory of the said Netherlands shall ever be subject to any other prince, but to the successor of the states of the house of Austria alone, excepting what
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6 *The History of ENGLAND.*

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8 *The History of* ENGLAND.

has been yielded by the present treaty to the said lords the States-General."

"A bare reading of these two articles is sufficient to evince all that I have just represented to your High Mightinesses: and whatever pretext the courts of Vienna and Versailles may alledge, to cover the infraction of these treaties, the thing remains nevertheless evident, whilst these two courts are unable to prove, that the towns of Ostend and Nieuport are not actually in the power of France. If their designs are just, or agreeable to those treaties, they will doubtless not scruple, in the least, to make your High Mightinesses easy on that head, by openly explaining themselves to a quiet and pacific neighbour, and by giving you indisputable proofs of their intentions to fulfil the stipulations of the said two treaties, with regard to the Netherlands.

"The king hath so much confidence in the good sense, prudence, and friendship of your High Mightinesses, that he makes not the least doubt of your taking the most efficacious measures to clear up an affair of such importance; and of your being pleased, in concert with his majesty, to watch over the fate of a country, whose situation and independence have, for more than a century, been

been regarded as one of the principal supports of your liberty and commerce."

However strong these arguments, so powerful was the French faction in Holland, that no regard was paid to them by the States-General. It should seem, indeed, that they were not only unprepared for a rupture with France, but unwilling to forego the commercial advantages they continued to derive from observing a neutrality.

The king of Prussia, conscious, that, notwithstanding his late successes, he should never be able to make head against his enemies, unless he could find means to persuade the Hanoverians to resume their arms, employed all his interest and address to effect this purpose. With this view, he took the liberty to write, with his own hand, the following letter to his Britannic majesty:

"I am informed, that the design of a treaty of neutrality for the electorate of Hanover is not yet laid aside. Is it possible that your majesty can have so little fortitude and constancy, as to be dispirited by a small reverse of fortune? Are affairs so ruinous, that they cannot be repaired? I hope your majesty will consider the step you have made me hazard, and remember that your are the sole cause of these misfortunes, that now impend over my head. I should never have aban-

10 *The History of* ENGLAND.

abandoned the alliance of France, but for your flattering assurances. I do not yet repent of the treaty I have concluded with your majesty; but I expect you will not ingloriously leave me at the mercy of my enemies, after having brought upon me all the forces of Europe. I depend upon your adhering to your repeated engagements of the twenty-sixth of last month, and that you will listen to no treaty in which I am not comprehended."

In answer to this remonstrance the king of Great-Britain declared, That the overtures made by his electoral ministers in Germany, touching the checks received on the continent, should have no influence on his majesty as king: that he saw, in the same light as before, the pernicious effects of the union between the courts of Vienna and Versailles, threatening a subversion of the whole system of public liberty, and of the independence of the European powers: that he considered, as a fatal consequence of this dangerous connection, the cession made by the court of Vienna of the ports in the Netherlands to France, in such a critical situation, and contrary to the faith of the most solemn treaties: that, whatever might be the success of his arms, his majesty was determined to act in constant concert

cert with the king of Prussia, in employing the most efficacious means to frustrate the unjust and oppressive designs of their common enemies: and that his Prussian majesty might rest assured, that the British crown would continue to fulfil, with the greatest punctuality, its engagements with him, and to support him with firmness and vigour.

The inclination, which the king of Great-Britain had, to afford assistance to his Prussian majesty, he was soon enabled effectually to gratify, by the shameful conduct of the French in Hanover. From the moment the capitulation of Closter-Seven was signed, the duke de Richlieu, who came to command, only to reap the advantages, and sully the honour of another's conquest, seemed to think of nothing more than of speedily repairing, from the plunder of the unhappy Hanoverians, the fortune, which he had squandered by a thousand vices. The most exorbitant contributions were levied with the most inflexible severity: every imposition, that was granted, served only to produce a new one still more extravagant; and all the orderly methods of exaction, could not exempt the inhabitants from the pillage, rapacity, and insolence of the French soldiery. In justice, however, to merit, we must except from this general charge,

12 *The History of* ENGLAND.

charge, the duke de Randan, the French governor of Hanover; who saved the capital of the electorate from ruin, by the strictness of his discipline, by the prudence, the equity and moderation of his conduct; a conduct, which does him more real honour, than the most splendid victories.

The duke de Richlieu's oppression, was not confined to the unhappy Hanoverians: it likewise extended to the very troops he commanded. Intent only on encreasing his fortune by the indiscriminate plunder of friends and foes, he relaxed every part of military discipline; and that army, which marechal d'Etrées had maintained, and conducted in health and spirits through the desert wilds of Westphalia, in spite of all the impediments that could be thrown in his way by a skilful adversary, was now, in full peace, and in the quiet possession of a conquered and plentiful country, diminished in their numbers, decayed in their health and spirits, without cloaths, without subsistence, without order, without arms. In this condition, they began to perceive, that the Hanoverians, though subjected to the yoke of the capitulation, were still formidable. In order, therefore, to provide for their own safety, they made no scruple to add one violation more to the many they had already com-

committed of that treaty. They actually attempted to deprive the Hanoverians and Hessians of their arms. His Britannic majesty was pleased to see the articles of the convention so palpably violated, because the violation unbound his hands, and enabled him, consistently with good faith, to take effectual steps for the assistance of his ally, and the recovery of his own dominions. He therefore, in quality of elector of Brunswick-Lunenbourg, published a declaration, importing, that his royal highness the duke of Cumberland had, on his part, honestly fulfilled all the conditions of the convention; but the duke de Richlieu insisted, that the troops should agree to his demands, and lay down their arms; although it was expressly stipulated in the convention, that they should not be regarded as prisoners of war, under which quality alone they could be disarmed: that the French court pretended to treat of the convention as a military regulation only; and, indeed, it was originally nothing more: but as they had expressly disowned its validity, and a negotiation had been actually begun for disarming the auxiliaries, upon certain conditions, though the French general would never answer categorically, but waited always for fresh instructions from Versailles, the nature

of that act was totally changed; and what was at first an agreement between general and general, was now become a matter of state between the two courts of London and Versailles: that, however hard the conditions of the convention appeared to be for the troops of Hanover, his Britannic majesty would have acquiesced in them, had not the French glaringly discovered their design of totally ruining his army, and his dominions; and, by the most outrageous conduct, freed his Britannic majesty from every obligation, under which he had been laid by the convention: that in the midst of the armistice, the most open hostilities had been committed: that the castle of Scharzfels had been forcibly seized and pillaged, and the garrison made prisoners of war: that the prisoners made by the French before the convention, had not been restored according to an express article stipulated between the generals, though it had been fulfilled on the part of the electorate, by the immediate release of the French prisoners: that the bailies of those districts, from which the French troops were excluded by mutual agreement, had been summoned on pain of military execution, to appear before the French commissary, and compelled to deliver into his hands the public revenue: that

that the French had appropriated to themselves part of those magazines, which, by express agreement, were destined for the use of the electoral troops; they had seized the houses, revenue, and corn, belonging to the king of England in the city of Bremen, in violation of their engagement to consider that city as a place absolutely free and neutral: and finally that they had proceeded to menaces, unheard of among civilized people, of burning, sacking, and destroying every thing that fell in their way, should the least hesitation be made in executing the convention according to their interpretation.

Such were the reasons that induced his Britannic majesty to renounce the agreement which they had violated, and have recourse to arms for the relief of his subjects and allies. Accordingly towards the latter end of this year, he bestowed the command of his electoral army on prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, brother to the duke of that name, who had distinguished himself in the Prussian service, by his great military talents, and was, by blood and inclination, as well as interest, warmly attached to his Britannic majesty.

The duke de Richlieu was no sooner apprized of these particulars, than he sent a letter to prince Ferdinand, intimating, that,

16 *The History of* ENGLAND.

although for some days he had perceived the Hanoverian troops in motion, in order to form themselves into a body, he could not imagine the object of these movements was to infringe the convention of neutrality, which had been established between the duke of Cumberland and himself, as French general: that he was blinded so far by his confidence in the good faith of the elector of Hanover, who had signed that convention, as to believe the troops were assembled for no other purpose than to be distributed into winter quarters, which had been assigned them by the agreement; but his eyes were at last opened, by repeated advices which he had received from all quarters, importing, that the Hanoverians intended to infringe those articles which ought to be sacred and inviolable: that the king, his master, was still willing to give fresh proofs of his moderation, and his desire to spare the effusion of human blood: with that view the duke declared to his serene highness, in the name of his most Christian majesty, that he persisted in his resolution of fulfilling exactly all the points of the convention, provided they should be equally observed by the Hanoverian army; but he could not help informing his serene highness, that if that army should take any equivocal step, and

still more, should it commit any act of hostility, he would then push matters to the last extremity, looking upon himself as authorized so to do by the rules of war: that he would set fire to all the palaces, houses, and gardens; sack all the towns and villages, without sparing the most inconsiderable cottage, and subject the country to all the horrors of war and devastation. He conjured his serene highness to reflect on these particulars, and begged he would not lay him under the necessity of taking steps so contrary to his own personal character, as well as to the natural humanity of the French nation. To this letter, which was enforced by the count de Lynar, the Danish ambassador, who had mediated the convention, prince Ferdinand returned a very laconic answer, importing, that he would give the duke de Richlieu his answer in person, at the head of his army.

About the latter end of November the Hanoverian forces were wholly assembled at Stade, under the command of this gallant general, who resolved, without delay, to drive the French from the electorate, whether he instantly began his march. Part of the enemy's rear, consisting of two thousand men, was in their march back to Zell, attacked in the balliwick of Bbstorff, and

18 *The History of* ENGLAND.

entirely routed by general Schuylenbourg ; and in a few days after this action, another happened upon the river Aller, between two considerable bodies of each army, in which the Hanoverians, commanded by general Zastrow, kept possession of the field. These petty advantages served to animate the allies, and enabled them to recover Lunnenburg, Zell, and part of the Brunswick dominions, which the enemy were obliged to abandon.

The progress of prince Ferdinand, however, was interrupted by the resolution and obstinate perseverance of the French officer, who commanded the garrison of Harbourg. When the Hanoverian troops made themselves masters of the town, he retired into the castle, which he continued to defend against a considerable detachment of the allied army, by whom it was invested, till, at length, the fortifications being entirely destroyed, he surrendered upon capitulation. On the sixth day of December prince Ferdinand began his march towards Zell, where the French army had taken post, under the command of the duke de Richlieu, who, at the approach of the Hanoverians, recalled his advanced parties, abandoned several magazines, burned all the farm houses and buildings belonging to the sheep-walks

walks of his Britannic majesty, without paying the least regard to the remonstrances of prince Ferdinand on this subject; reduced the suburbs of Zell to ashes, after the houses had been plundered by his soldiers; and even set fire to the orphan-hospital, in which a great number of helpless children most miserably perished. Such was the savage conduct of a people, who have long laid claim to the character of the most polite and civilized nation in Europe; but who, in prosecution of their ambitious or revengeful schemes, are really the most cruel, barbarous, and inhuman.

The Hanoverians having approached within a league of Zell, the two armies began to cannonade each other; the French troops posted on the right of the Aller, destroyed their magazines and withdrew into the town, where they intrenched themselves so strongly, that prince Ferdinand could not attempt the river, the passes of which were secured by the enemy. At the same time his troops suffered greatly from the severity of the weather: he therefore retreated to Ulzen and Lunenburg, where his army was put into winter-quarters, and obtained some petty advantages by small detachments, while the French general fixed his head-

head-quarters in the city of Hanover, his cantonments extending as far as Zell, in the neighbourhood of which many sharp skirmishes were fought by the out-parties, with various success.

The Empress-queen was no sooner informed of these transactions, which she considered as infractions of the treaty of neutrality, than she sent a messenger to the baron de Steinberg, minister to the king of Great-Britain as elector of Hanover, acquainting him, that he should appear no more at court, or confer with her ministers; and that his residing at Vienna, he might easily conceive, could not be very agreeable: in consequence of which intimation he retired, after having procured the necessary passports for his departure.

The operations at sea, during the course of this year, were neither numerous nor important. The commerce of Great-Britain sustained considerable damage from the activity and success of French privateers, of which a great number had been fitted out in the islands of Martinique and Guadalupe. The Greenwich ship of war, mounted with fifty guns, and a frigate of twenty, fell into the hands of the enemy, together with a very considerable number of trading vessels.

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These losses, however, were more than compensated by the advantages obtained by the English commanders. The duc D'Aquitaine, a large ship of fifty guns, was taken in the month of June by two British ships of war, after an obstinate engagement; and about the same time the Aquilon, of nearly the same force, was driven on shore and destroyed near Brest by the Antelope, one of the British cruisers. A French frigate of twenty-six guns, called the Emeraude, was taken in the channel, after a warm engagement, by an English ship of inferior force, under the command of captain Gilchrist, a brave and active officer, who distinguished himself in the sequel, by very extraordinary feats of valour. All the sea officers seemed to be animated with a noble emulation, to outvie each other in the service of their country; and the spirit descended even to the captains of privateers, who, instead of imitating the former commanders of that class, in avoiding ships of force, and converting their whole attention to advantageous prizes, now attacked the armed ships of the enemy, and fought with the most obstinate valour in the pursuit of national glory.

History, perhaps, cannot furnish a more remarkable instance of desperate courage, than

22 *The History of ENGLAND.*

than that which was exhibited in December of the preceding year, by the officers and crew of an English privateer, called the *Terrible*, under the command of captain William Death, armed with twenty-six carriage guns, and manned with two hundred sailors. On the twenty-third day of the month he engaged, and took a large French ship from St. Domingo, after an obstinate battle, in which he lost his fourth lieutenant and three seamen: then he secured with sixteen men his prize, which contained a valuable cargo, and directed his course towards England; but in a few days he had the misfortune to fall in with the *Vengeance*, a privateer of St. Malo, carrying thirty-four large cannon, with a complement of three hundred and fifty men.

Their first step was to retake the prize, which was easily effected; then the two ships bore down upon the *Terrible*, whose main-mast was shot away by the first broadside. Notwithstanding this disaster, she maintained such a furious and desperate engagement against both as can hardly be equalled in the annals of Britain. The first and third captains of the Frenchman were killed, with two thirds of their company; but the gallant captain Death, with the greater part of his officers, and almost his whole

whole crew, having met with the same fate, his ship was boarded by the enemy, who found no more than twenty six persons alive, sixteen of whom were mutilated by the loss of leg or arm, and the other ten grievously wounded. The ship itself was so shattered that it could scarce be kept from sinking, and the whole displayed a most dreadful scene of blood, carnage, and desolation. Even the victor lay a wreck on the surface; and in this condition made shift, with great difficulty, to tow the Terrible into St. Malo, where she was not beheld without astonishment and terror. This adventure was no sooner known in England, than a liberal subscription was raised for the support of Death's widow, and that part of the crew which survived the engagement.

In the month of November, capt. Lockhart, a young gentleman, who had already rendered himself a terror to the enemy, as commander of a small frigate, now added considerably to his reputation, by taking the Melampe, a French privateer of Bayonne, greatly superior to his ship, in number of men and weight of metal. This exploit was followed by another of the same nature, in his conquest of another French adventurer, called the Countess of Gramont; and a third large privateer of Bayonne

24 *The History of* ENGLAND.

Bayonne was taken by captain Saumarez, commander of the Antelope. In a word, the narrow seas were so well guarded, that in a little time scarce a French ship durst stir out of their harbours, while the British traders carried on their traffic without molestation.

On the first day of December, his majesty opened the session of parliament with a speech, in which he declared, that it would have given him a most sensible pleasure to acquaint them, at the beginning of the session, that his success in carrying on the war had been equal to the justice of his cause, and the extent and vigour of the measures formed for that purpose: that, for his own part, he had the firmest confidence, that the spirit and bravery of the nation, so renowned in all times, and which had formerly surmounted so many difficulties, were not to be abated by a few disappointments, which, he trusted, might be retrieved by the blessing of God, and the zeal and ardour of his parliament for his majesty's honour and the advantage of their country: that it was his determined resolution to apply his utmost efforts for the security of his kingdoms, and for the recovery and protection of the possessions and rights of his crown in America, and elsewhere, as well
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by the strongest exertion of his naval force as by all other methods: that another great object, which he had at heart, was the preservation of the Protestant religion, and the liberties of Europe; and, with that view, to encourage and adhere to his allies: that, for this cause, he would decline no inconveniences; and, in this cause, he confidently expected their hearty concurrence and vigorous assistance: that the late signal success in Germany had given a happy turn to affairs, which it was incumbent on them to improve; and that, in such a critical conjuncture, the eyes of all Europe were upon them: that he hoped they would be of opinion, that his good brother and ally the king of Prussia, ought to be supported in such a manner, as his magnanimity and active zeal for the common cause deserved: that it gave him, indeed, the most sensible concern, that the large supplies they had already granted, had not produced all the good fruits they had reason to expect; but he had so great a reliance on their wisdom, as not to doubt of their perseverance: that he desired only such supplies as should be necessary for the public service; and they might rest assured, that the best and most faithful economy should be used: that, notwithstanding his firm conviction of the loyalty.

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alty and good affections of his faithful subjects, he could not help taking notice of that spirit of disorder, which had lately shewn itself among the common people, in some parts of the kingdom; he hoped they would use their utmost endeavours for discouraging and suppressing such abuses, and for maintaining the laws and lawful authority: and, finally, that nothing would so effectually conduce to the defence of all that was dear to the nation, as well as to the reducing their enemies to reason, as union and harmony among themselves.

Addresses of thanks having been presented by both houses, the commons proceeded to settle the supply. They granted for the sea-service of the ensuing year sixty thousand men, including fourteen thousand eight hundred and forty-five marines; and the standing army, comprehending four thousand invalids, was fixed at fifty-three thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven effective men, commission and non-commission officers included. For the maintenance of these forces, by sea and land, the charge of guards and garrisons at home and abroad, the expence of the ordnance, and in order to make good the sum which had been issued by his majesty's orders, in pursuance of the address from the commons, they now allotted

lotted four millions twenty-two thousand eight hundred and seven pounds seven shillings and three pence. They unanimously granted, as a present supply in the then critical exigency, towards enabling his majesty to maintain and keep together the army formed last year in his electoral dominions, and then again put in motion, and actually employed against the common enemy, in concert with the king of Prussia, the sum of one hundred thousand pounds: for the ordinary of the navy, including half-pay to the sea-officers, they allowed two hundred twenty four thousand four hundred twenty-one pounds five shillings and eight pence: towards the building and support of the three hospitals for seamen at Gosport, Plymouth, and Greenwich, thirty thousand pounds: for the reduced officers of the land forces and marines, pensions to the widows of officers, and other such military contingencies, forty thousand nine hundred and twenty-six pounds seventeen shillings and eleven pence: towards building, rebuilding, and repairs of his majesty's ships for the ensuing year, the sum of two hundred thousand pounds: for defraying the charge of two thousand one hundred and twenty horse, and nine thousand nine hundred infantry, together with the general and

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staff officers, the officers of the hospital and the train of artillery, being the troops of the landgrave of Hesse Cassel in the pay of Great-Britain for sixty days, together with the subsidy for the said time, pursuant to treaty, they assigned thirty-eight thousand three hundred and sixty pounds nineteen shillings and ten pence three farthings.

To the foundling hospital they gave forty thousand pounds, for the maintenance and education of deserted young children, as well as for the reception of all such as should be presented under a certain age, to be limited by the governor and guardians of that charity. Three hundred thousand pounds were given towards discharging the debt of the navy; and two hundred eighty-four thousand eight hundred and two pounds for making up the deficiency of the grants for the service of the preceding year. The landgrave of Hesse Cassel was, moreover, gratified with the further sum of two hundred and three thousand five hundred and thirty-six pounds four shillings and nine pence one farthing, for the maintenance of his forces, and the remainder of his subsidy.

They granted six hundred and seventy thousand pounds, for enabling his majesty to make good his engagements with the king

king of Prussia, pursuant to a convention lately concluded with that potentate. For defraying the charge of thirty-eight thousand men of the troops of Hanover, Wolfenbuttle, Saxe-Gotha, and the count of Buckbourg, together with that of general and staff officers, actually employed against the common enemy, in concert with the king of Prussia, from the twenty eighth day of November in the last, to the twenty-fourth day of December in the present year inclusive, to be issued in advance every two months, they allotted the sum of four hundred and sixty-three thousand eighty four pounds six shillings and ten pence; and furthermore they granted three hundred eighty-six thousand nine hundred and fifteen pounds thirteen shillings and two pence, to defray the charges of forage, bread-waggon, train of artillery, provisions, wood, straw, and all other extraordinary expences, contingencies, and losses whatsoever incurred, or to be incurred, on account of his majesty's army, consisting of thirty-eight thousand men, actually employed against the common enemy, in concert with the king of Prussia, from November last to next December inclusive.

For the extraordinary expences of the land forces, and other services, incurred in

the course of the last year, and not provided for by parliament, they allowed one hundred forty five thousand four hundred fifty-four pounds fifteen shillings and one farthing. They provided eight hundred thousand pounds, to enable his majesty to defray the like sum raised in pursuance of an act made in the last session of parliament, and charged upon the first aids and supplies to be granted in the current session. Twenty-six thousand pounds were bestowed on the out-pensioners of Chelsea-hospital; above twenty thousand for the expence of maintaining the colonies of Nova Scotia and Georgia: for reimbursing to the province of Massachusets Bay, and the colony of Connecticut, their expence in furnishing provisions and stores to the troops raised by them, for his majesty's service, in the campaign of the year 1756, the sum of forty one thousand one hundred seventeen pounds seventeen shillings and six-pence half penny: to be applied towards the rebuilding of London bridge carrying on the works for fortifying and securing the harbour of Milford, and repairing the parish-church of St. Margaret in Westminster, they allotted twenty-nine thousand pounds.

The East India company were indulged with twenty thousand pounds upon account,

towards enabling them to defray the expence of a military force in their settlements, to be maintained by them in lieu of the battalion of his majesty's forces withdrawn from those settlements: the sum of ten thousand pounds was given, as usual, for maintaining and supporting the British forts and settlements on the coast of Africa; and eleven thousand four hundred and fifty, were granted as an augmentation to the salaries of the judges in the superior courts of judicature. They likewise provided one hundred thousand pounds, for defraying the charge of pay and cloathing to the militia; and advanced eight hundred thousand pounds to enable his majesty to defray any extraordinary expences of the war, incurred, or to be incurred for the service of the current year; and to take all such measures as might be necessary to disappoint, or defeat, any enterprizes or designs of his enemies, as the exigency of affairs might require. The whole supplies of this session amounted to the sum of ten millions, four hundred eighty six thousand four hundred fifty-seven pounds and one penny *.

The funds established by the committee of ways and means, in order to make good these

these liberal grants, consisted of the malt-tax, the land tax at four shillings in the pound, sums remaining in the exchequer produced from the sinking fund, four millions five hundred thousand pounds to be raised by annuities, at three pounds ten shillings per cent. per ann. and five hundred thousand pounds by a lottery, attended with annuities redeemable by parliament, after the rate of three pounds per cent. per ann. these several annuities to be transferable at the bank of England, and charged upon a fund to be established in this session of parliament for payment thereof, and for which the sinking fund should be a collateral security *; one million six hundred and six thousand and seventy-six pounds, five shil-

* It was enacted, That every person subscribing for five hundred pounds, should be intitled to four hundred and fifty in annuities; and fifty pounds in lottery tickets, and so in proportion for a greater or lesser sum: that the lottery should consist of tickets of the value of ten pounds each, in a proportion not exceeding eight blanks to a prize; the blanks to be of the value of six pounds each; the blanks and prizes to bear an interest after the rate of three pounds per cent, to commence from the first day of January, in the year 1759; and that the sum of four millions five hundred thousand pounds, to be raised by annuities, should bear an interest after the rate of three pounds
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Shillings, one penny one farthing, issued and applied out of such monies as should, or might arise from the surplusses, excesses, and other revenues composing the sinking fund; a tax of one shilling in the pound to be annually paid from all salaries, fees, and perquisites of offices and employments in Great Britain, and from all pensions and other gratuities payable out of any revenues belonging to his majesty in Great Britain, exceeding the yearly value of one hundred pounds; an imposition of one shilling annually upon every dwelling-house inhabited within the kingdom of Great Britain, over and above all other duties already chargeable

ten shillings per cent from the fifth day of July in the present year, which annuities should stand reduced to three pounds per cent. after the expiration of twenty-four years, and afterwards be redeemable in the whole, or in part, by sums not less than five hundred thousand pounds at one time, six months notice having been first given of such payments respectively; that any subscriber might, on or before the twentieth day of April, make a deposit of ten pounds per cent on such sums as he should choose to subscribe towards raising these five millions, with the cashiers of the bank, as a security for his future payments on the days appointed for that purpose; that the several sums, so received by the cashiers, should be payed into the receipt of the exchequer, to be applied from time to

able upon them, to commence from the fifth day of April; an additional tax of six pence yearly for every window or light in every dwelling-house inhabited in Britain, which shall contain fifteen windows or upwards; a continuation of certain acts near expiring, with respect to the duties payable on foreign sail cloth imported into Great-Britain, the exportation of British gunpowder, the securing and encouraging the trade of his majesty's sugar colonies in America, and the empowering the importers and proprietors of spirits from the British sugar plantations, to land them before payment of the duties of excise, and to lodge them in warehouses at their own expence; an annual tax of forty shillings for a licence to be taken out by every person trading in, selling or vending gold or silver plate, in lieu of the duty

to time to such services as should then have been voted by the house of commons in this session of parliament, and not otherwise: that any subscriber, paying the whole or any part of his subscription, previous to the days appointed for the respective payments, should be allowed a discount at the rate of three per cent from the days of such respective payments to the respective times, on which such payments were directed to be made: and that all persons who should make their full payments on the said lottery, should receive their rickets as soon as they could be conveniently made out.

duty of six-pence per ounce on all silver plate, made or wrought, or which ought to be touched, assayed, or marked in this kingdom, which duty now ceased and determined; a cessation of all drawbacks payable on the exportation of silver plate; a law prohibiting all persons from selling by retail, any sweets or made wines, without first having procured a licence for that purpose; and a loan, by exchequer-bills, for eight hundred thousand pounds, to be charged on the first aids to be granted in the next session of parliament. These provisions amounted to the sum of eleven millions seventy-nine thousand seven hundred and twenty-two pounds, six shillings and tenpence, exceeding the grants in the sum of five hundred ninety-three thousand two hundred and sixty-five pounds, six shillings and ninepence; the surplus being intended to supply the deficiencies that might happen in collecting the several duties.

The supply granted by the commons, for maintaining the Hanoverian army, was, in consequence of a message, communicated by Mr. secretary Pitt, intimating, that the king had ordered his electoral army to be put again into motion, that it might act with vigour against the common enemy, in concert with his good brother and ally the king

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of Prussia: and that the exhausted and ruined state of the electorate, having rendered it incapable of maintaining that army, until the further necessary charge thereof, as well as the more particular measures then concerting for the effectual support of his Prussian majesty, could be laid before the house, the king relying on the constant zeal of his faithful commons, for the support of the Protestant religion, and of the liberties of Europe, against the dangerous designs of France and her confederates, found himself, in the mean time, under the absolute necessity of recommending to the house the speedy consideration of such a present supply, as might enable his majesty in this critical conjuncture, to subsist and keep together the said army. This message was no sooner read by the speaker, than it was referred to the committee of supply, who immediately granted the sum abovementioned.

At the same time, in order the more effectually to provide for the security of Hanover, and the support of the Protestant cause in Germany, the ministry concluded a new treaty or convention with his Prussian majesty; which, that it might have the firmer consistence, and the greater authority, was, on the part of Great-Britain, transacted

ed and signed by almost all the privy counsellors who had any share in the administration*. This treaty, which was signed at Westminster on the eleventh day of April, imported, That the contracting powers having mutually resolved to continue their efforts for their mutual defence and security, for the recovery of their possessions, the protection of their allies, and the support of the liberties of the Germanic body; his Britannic majesty had, from these considerations, determined to grant to his Prussian majesty an immediate succour in money, as being the most ready and efficacious method; and their majesties having judged it proper, that thereupon a convention should be made, for declaring and fixing their intentions upon this head, they had nominated and au-

VOL. XLIII.

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* These were, Sir Robert Henley, lord keeper of the privy seal; John earl Granville, president of the council; Thomas Holles duke of Newcastle, first commissioner of the treasury; Robert earl of Holderness, one of the principal secretaries of state; Philip earl of Hardwicke; and William Pitt, Esq; another of the principal secretaries of state. In the name and on the part of his Prussian majesty, the Sieurs Dado Henry, baron of Knyphausen, his privy counsellor of Embassy, and minister plenipotentiary at the court of London; and Lewis Michel, his resident, and chargé d'affaires.

38 *The History of ENGLAND.*

thorized their respective ministers, who, after having communicated their full powers to one another, agreed to the following stipulations: that the king of Great-Britain should pay in the city of London, to such person as should be authorized to receive it by his Prussian majesty, the sum of four millions of German crowns, amounting to six hundred and seventy thousand pounds sterling, to be payed at once, and in one whole sum, immediately after the exchange of ratifications, upon being demanded by his Prussian majesty: that this prince, on his part, should apply that sum to the maintaining and augmenting his forces, which should act in the best manner for the good of the common cause, and for the purpose of reciprocal defence, and mutual security, proposed by their said majesties: that the high contracting parties should conclude no treaty of peace, truce, or neutrality, nor any other sort of convention or agreement, with the powers engaged in the present war, but in concert and by mutual agreement, wherein both should be nominally comprehended: and, finally, that this convention should be ratified, and the ratifications exchanged on both sides, within the term of six weeks, to be computed from the day of signing this present convention, or sooner, if possible.

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Continental or German connections have lately been the subject of so much controversy ; their necessity and advantages on the one side, and their inutility and disadvantages on the other, have been maintained and asserted with so much warmth, that, amidst such a multiplicity of opinions, it is absolutely impossible to advance any judgment, that will be equally to the satisfaction of all parties. Might we take the liberty, in a matter of so much importance, and yet uncertainty, to speak our sentiments, we should venture to affirm, that, even upon the supposition, that, the king of Great Britain had not a foot of ground in Germany, it would still be interest of the inhabitants of this island to attend to the preservation of the ballance of power in Europe.

Were France once allowed, without opposition, to make herself mistress of the Austrian Netherlands and the Dutch Low Countries, the liberties of England would not only be exposed to the most imminent danger, but from that moment might be pronounced to be actually lost. The consequences, though less immediately alarming, might yet, in the end, prove no less fatal, were she permitted to extend her dominions or increase her influence in any other part of the continent.

But not to insist on this consideration, it must likewise be granted by every intelligent person, that while the king of Great-Britain continues possessed of the electorate of Hanover, this last country must always suffer, and innocently suffer, for the sake of the former, in all contests between the French and the English; and it will not be alledged by any, but those who are shamelessly selfish, that no efforts ought to be made by England for the relief of a people, unhappily involved, not for their own fault, but merely on our account, in all the miseries and calamities of war.

Either of these motives were sufficient to justify the ministry in concluding the present treaty with his Prussian majesty and in arming the Hanoverians: whether either, or both of them conjoined, are a sufficient apology for all the measures, which they afterwards embraced, in the prosecution of the war, will come to be considered with greater propriety in relating the transactions of each particular period.

All the resolutions, to which the committee of ways and means agreed, were executed by bills, or clauses in bills, which afterwards received the royal assent. The militia still continued to be an object of parliamentary care and attention: but the scheme was not yet prosecuted with any kind of spirit

Spirit, because seemingly discouraged by the remnant of the old ministry, which still enjoyed a considerable share in the government, and indeed almost wholly ingrossed the distribution of pensions and places.

The commons having presented an address to his majesty, with respect to the harbour of Milford haven, a book of plans and estimates for fortifying that harbour was laid before the house, and a committee appointed to examine the particulars. They gave it as their opinion, that the mouth of the harbour was too wide to admit of any fortification, or effectual defence; but that the passage called Nailand point, lying higher than Hubbertstone road, might be fortified, so as to afford safe riding and anchorage to the trade and navy of Great Britain: that, if it should be thought proper hereafter to form a yard and dock for building and equipping fleets at Milford, no place could, from the situation, nature, soil, and a general concurrence of all necessary local circumstances, be more fitted for such a design: that if proper use were made of this valuable, though long neglected, harbour, the distressful delays, so often embarrassing and disappointing the nation in her naval operations, might be, in a great measure, happily removed, to the infinite relief and advantage of the kingdom in the means of

42 *The History of* ENGLAND.

improving its naval force; the necessary progress and free execution of which was now so unhappily and frequently restrained and frustrated, by the want of an harbour like that of Milford haven, framed by nature for such a convenience. This report appeared to be so well founded in fact, that that a bill was prepared and passed into an law, for granting ten thousand pounds towards carrying on the works for fortifying and securing the harbour of Milford in the county of Pembroke.

Other laws of national importance were enacted, in the course of this session, with little or no opposition. On the very first day of their sitting, the commons received a petition from the mayor, magistrates, merchants, and inhabitants of Liverpool, complaining of the high price of wheat, and other grain; expressing their apprehension, that it would continue to rise, unless the time for the importation of foreign corn, duty free, should be prolonged, or some other salutary measure taken by parliament, to prevent dealers from engrossing corn; submitting to the wisdom of the house, a total prohibition of distilling and exporting grain, while the high price should continue; and praying they would take the premises into consideration, and grant a seasonable relief to the petitioners, by a continuance of a free

free importation, and taking such other effectual means to reduce the growing price of corn, as to them should seem necessary and expedient.

This being a public grievance that equally affected the nation in general, and the manufacturers in particular, it was canvassed and discussed with remarkable dispatch. In a few days a bill was passed through both houses, and enacted into a law, continuing till the twenty-fourth day of December, in the present year, the three acts of last session; prohibiting the exportation of corn; restraining the distillation of spirits; and permitting the importation of corn duty-free.

A second law was established, regulating the price and assize of bread, and subjecting those to severe penalties who should be concerned in its adulteration. In consequence of certain resolutions, taken in a committee of the whole house, a bill was prepared for prohibiting the payment of the bounty upon the exportation of corn, unless sold at a lower price than is allowed in an act passed in the first year of the reign of king William and queen Mary: but this bill, after having been twice read, and committed, was first postponed and finally let fall. In pursuance of a motion made by Mr. Grenville, a humane bill was framed and brought

brought in for the encouragement of seamen employed in the royal navy, establishing a regular method for the punctual, frequent, and certain payment of their wages; enabling them more easily and readily to remit money for the support of their wives and families, and preventing frauds and abuses attending such payments. This bill being passed by the commons, was sent up to the lords, who examined the matter with great attention, and, by divers messages to the lower house, desired the attendance of several of its members. These messages were no sooner communicated, than several precedents were produced; and a debate arose about the propriety of complying with their contents.

The house, therefore, unanimously resolved, that a message should be sent to the lords, acquainting them, that the house of commons, not being sufficiently informed, by their messages, upon what grounds, or for what purposes, their lordships desired the house would give leave to such of their members, as were named in the said messages, to attend the house of lords, in order to be examined upon the second reading of the bill; the commons hoped their lordships would make them acquainted with their intention.

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The lords, in answer to this request, gave the commons to understand, that they desired the attendance of the members mentioned in their messages, that they might be examined as witnesses upon the second reading of the bill. This explanation being deemed satisfactory, the members attended the house of lords, where they were carefully and fully examined, as persons conversant in sea affairs, touching the inconveniences which had formerly attended the sea service, as well as the remedies now proposed; and the bill having passed thro' their house, though not without warm opposition, was finally confirmed by the royal sanction.

The militia act, as it passed in the last session, being found upon trial defective, Mr. Townshend moved for leave to bring in a new bill to explain, amend, and enforce it: this was accordingly allowed, prepared, and passed into a law, which still continues in force.

Several merchants, and manufacturers of silk, offered a petition, representing, that, in consequence of the act passed in the last session, allowing the importation of fine organzine Italian thrown silk till the first day of December, 1757, they had given orders to their correspondents abroad to send large

large quantities of such silk through Germany to Hamburgh and Holland, which, in the common course of things, might probably have arrived in London before the act expired, if their carriage had not been protracted by the great rains and inundations in Italy and Germany, in the months of August and September last, which rendered the roads for many weeks impassable: that, from unlucky accidents on shore, and storms and contrary winds, after the silk was shipped, it could not possibly arrive within the time limited by the act; and unless it should be admitted to an entry, they, the petitioners, would be great sufferers, the manufactures greatly prejudiced, and the good end and purpose of the act in a great measure frustrated: they, therefore, prayed the commons to bring in a bill for allowing the introduction of all such fine Italian organzine silk, as should appear to have been shipped in Holland and Hamburgh for London, on or before the first day of December.

The petition being referred to a committee, which reported that these allegations were true, the house complied with their request, and the bill having passed, was enacted into a law in the usual form. A speedy passage was likewise given to the

mutiny bill, and the other annual measures for regulating the marine forces, which contained nothing new or extraordinary.

The great number of houses upon London-bridge, and the narrowness of the passage as well over as under it had frequently been the cause of many accidents; and had always been considered as a public nuisance. Some steps had already been taken, and certain sums of money allotted for removing this inconvenience; but these being deemed by no means sufficient, the lord-mayor, aldermen, and commons of the city of London, presented a petition to the house of commons, alledging, that the toll upon loaded vessels, and other craft, passing thro' the arches of London-bridge, granted by a former act, passed in the year 1750, for improving, widening, and enlarging the passage both under and over the said bridge, was altogether precarious and insufficient to defray the expence, including that of a temporary wooden bridge already erected; and praying that a bill might be prepared for explaining and rendering that act effectual.

A committee was appointed to examine the contents, and a bill brought in according to their request. This, however, was opposed by a petition from several persons,
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48 *The History of ENGLAND.*

owners of barges and other craft navigating the river Thames, who affirmed, that, if the bill should pass into a law as it then stood, it would be extremely injurious to the petitioners in particular, and to the public in general. These were heard by their counsel before the committee, but no report was yet given, when the temporary bridge was reduced to ashes.

Then the mayor, aldermen, and commons of London, delivered another petition, representing, that, in pursuance of the powers vested in them by act of parliament, they had already demolished a good number of the houses on London-bridge, and directed the rest that were standing, to be taken down with all convenient expedition: that two of the arches might be laid into one for the improvement of the navigation: that they had, at a very great expence, erected a temporary wooden bridge to preserve a public passage to and from the city, until the great arch could be finished, which temporary bridge being consumed by fire, they must rebuild it with the greatest expedition, at a farther considerable expence: that the sum necessary for carrying on and completing this great and useful work, including the rebuilding of the said temporary bridge, was estimated at fourscore thousand pounds; and

and as the improving, widening, and enlarging London-bridge, was calculated for the general good of the public, for the advancement of trade and commerce, for making the navigation upon the river Thames more safe and secure; they therefore prayed the house to take the premises into consideration.

This petition being recommended by his majesty to the consideration of the house, was referred to the committee of supply, and produced the resolution of granting fifteen thousand pounds towards the rebuilding of London bridge. A bill was prepared under the title of, An act to improve, widen, and enlarge the passage over and through London-bridge, enforcing the payment of the toll imposed upon loaded vessels, which had been found extremely burthenfome to trade; but this incumbrance was prevented by another petition of several merchants, tradesmen, and other inhabitants of the borough of Southwark, taking notice of the fifteen thousand pounds granted towards the repair of London-bridge; and, as they were informed, intended to make the said bridge free for all his majesty's subjects. They said they hoped to partake of this public bounty; but afterwards hearing that the bill then depending was con-

fixed to the tolls formerly granted for repairing the said bridge, they represented the hardships which they and all traders would continue to labour under.

They alledged, that the surveyors and workmen then employed upon this work had discovered the true principles on which the bridge was built: that the foundation of the piers consisted of hard durable stone, well cemented together, and now as strong and firm as when first built: that when the bridge should be finished, great savings would be made in keeping it in repair, from the sums formerly expended on a mistaken opinion, that the foundation was of wood: that there were very considerable estates appointed solely for the repairs of the bridge, which, they apprehended, would be sufficient to maintain it without any toll; or if they should not be thought adequate to that purpose, they hoped the deficiency would not be made up by a toll upon trade and commerce, but rather by an imposition on coaches, chariots, chaises, and saddle-horses. This remonstrance made such an impression on the house, that several amendments were made to the bill, and an express clause added, that none of the tolls imposed by the act of the twenty-ninth year of his present majesty, should be exacted
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after next Midsummer. Thus altered and amended, it passed through both houses, and obtained the royal assent.

The next affair that came before the commons was a bill for permitting the importation of Irish tallow, suggested by a petition of several tallow-chandlers of London and Westminster, who affirmed, that the scarcity of British tallow, occasioned by a distemper among the horned cattle, the rot among the sheep, and the increased consumption of this commodity in the manufactory of hard soap, had raised the price of it so high as to make candles extremely dear: that the consequence of this dearth was, in the first instance, severely felt by the poor, very prejudicial to every branch of trade and manufacture, and, by inducing great numbers to use oil instead of candles, would ultimately affect his majesty's revenue and the landed interest. They, therefore, submitted to the house, whether the free importation of Irish tallow, the duty on which amounted almost to a prohibition, would not, in all likelihood, reduce the present exorbitant price of candles, prevent monopolies in such an essential article of the necessaries of life, and at the same time secure the duties upon candles to the crown, with ease and advantage to the subject.

The committee appointed to take this petition into consideration, gave it as their opinion, that the duties then payable on tallow imported from Ireland, ought, in prudence, to cease for a limited time. On this resolution a bill was framed, and approved by a petition of the merchants, tradesmen, and tallow-chandlers of Liverpool and parts adjacent.

But another representation of a very different nature, was delivered by certain proprietors of lands, landholders, yeomen, and graziers of Buckinghamshire, alleging, that they had sustained great losses by the contagious distemper which raged a long time among their cattle, for which the advanced price of provisions had by no means been a sufficient compensation: that as the distemper among the horned cattle had now entirely ceased, and the rot among the sheep was greatly abated, the petitioners were thoroughly convinced, from the daily decrease of the price of tallow, that the markets would be plentifully supplied without any importation: that should the bill pass into a law, the natives of Ireland would be enabled to undersell the English in their tallow, as they payed no land tax, and held their farms at easy rates; consequently the rents in England must be proportionably

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diminished; a circumstance that would prove detrimental to the landed interest, as well as to the revenue. On the other hand, petitions in favour of the bill were presented by the inhabitants of Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottingham, Tavistock, Norwich and Canterbury, Coventry and Sudbury, some of the principal trading towns in England. The bill being discussed in a committee of the whole house, passed without much further opposition, and was carried to the upper house, where it finally miscarried.

Such too was the fate of a bill, intended to permit the free importation of cattle from Ireland, for a time to be limited. A committee of the whole house of commons, after having examined the laws, which prohibit the importation of cattle from Ireland, the duties upon skins and hides imported into Great Britain, and perused a variety of accounts relating to this subject, resolved, that there should be a free importation of cattle from Ireland into Great-Britain, for a limited time; and a bill was drawn up in consequence of this resolution. At the same time another was prepared for suspending, for a limited time, the duties payable on the importation of raw hides and calves skins from Ireland.

These bills were supported by petitions from the merchants of Liverpool, Barnstable, Minehead, Chester, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Bristol, Haverfordwest, as well as by the tanners of the county of Salop, and of the town and county of Gloucester. Some of these represented, that the free importation of live cattle from Ireland would supply the pastures of England, so greatly thinned by the distemper; the price of tallow would be lowered; the estates much better able to bear and pay the taxes; the kingdom enabled to supply the navy with beef on reasonable terms; while the wicked practice of smuggling soap and candles from Ireland, would be, in a great measure, prevented.

In opposition, however, to these allegations, a petition was presented against the cattle bill, by the sheriff and grand jury, gentlemen, proprietors of land, landholders, and breeders of cattle, assembled at the great sessions holden for the county of Pembroke, affirming, that the free importation of cattle from Ireland would be attended with very affecting consequences to the general landed interest of the kingdom; and expressing their hope, that, as the nation was engaged in an expensive war, to-
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wards the support of which the landed interest contributed so largely, the present juncture would not be thought a proper time to weaken that interest, by passing a bill of so fatal a tendency; the evils of which had been so sensibly felt in a former reign, that no fewer than four very severe laws were passed for their prevention. This remonstrance seems to have had greater weight with the lords than the commons; for the bill, after having passed the lower house, was rejected in the upper.

A free trade between England and Ireland, especially in those articles, in which Ireland principally abounds, has been frequently solicited by the latter, and as often refused by the former; and the legislature of Great-Britain has many times incurred the severest censure, from the factious and the ignorant, for their seemingly unreasonable conduct in this particular. To those, however, who are competent judges of the matter, nothing can appear more reasonable. The Irish, it is well known, pay few or no taxes, in comparison of the English: and can any thing be more reasonable, than that those, who bear the whole of the public burdens, should enjoy some privileges, from which those, who bear no part, or, at most, a very inconsiderable part of them, are excluded.

56 *The History of ENGLAND.*

It were to be wished, indeed, that Ireland was incorporated with Great-Britain by a firm and perpetual union; but, while the inhabitants of that country insist on maintaining the character of a distinct kindom, they must lay their account with being subjected to certain restrictions; and all the duties imposed on their commodities may fairly be considered as a very just and a very equitable method of obliging them, whether they will or not, to contribute to the support of that government, to which, in times of public danger, they are indebted for their safety. For the Irish to expect, while in their present situation, to enjoy a free and unrestrained trade with England, is just as unreasonable, as if any of the counties of England should demand an entire exemption from all kind of taxes, while it continues to possess the same privileges with the other counties of the kingdom.

But, though nothing, in the main, can be more reasonable than the prohibition of a free trade between Great-Britain and Ireland, yet it has, sometimes, been found expedient to take off this wise and necessary restriction; and accordingly the lords, in order to show they were actuated, not by a narrow and selfish spirit, but by a real regard to the interest of their country, agreed to a bill
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prepared and sent up by the commons, permitting, for a limited time, the importation of salted beef, pork, and butter from this latter kingdom.

The interest of the manufactures was also promoted by an act encouraging the growth of madder, a plant essentially necessary in dying and printing calicoes, which may be raised in England without the least inconvenience. It was found, upon enquiry, that the most effectual means to encourage the growth of this commodity, would be to ascertain the tythe of it, and a bill was brought in for that purpose. The rate of the tythe was established at five shillings an acre; and it was enacted, that this law should continue in force for fourteen years, and to the end of the session of parliament, next ensuing after the expiration of that term.

The laws relating to the poor, though equally numerous and oppressive to the subject, having been found defective, a new clause relating to the settlement of servants and apprentices, was now added to an act passed in the twentieth year of the present reign, intitled, An act for the better adjusting, and more easy recovery of the wages of certain servants, and of certain appren-

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58 *The History of* ENGLAND.

No country in the world can boast such a number of laws made in behalf of the poor, as those that are daily enacted in England: in no other country is there so much money raised for their support, by private charity, as well as by public taxation; yet this, as much as any country, swarms with vagrant beggars, and teems with objects of misery and distress; a sure sign either of the insufficiency of the laws, or the most shameful neglect in the execution of them.

Such scenes of corruption, perjury, riot, and intemperance, had lately been acted at all the elections for members of parliament, that it was found absolutely necessary to provide some remedy for this growing evil. Accordingly, Sir John Philips, a gentleman of Wales, who had long distinguished himself by his free and independent spirit, moved for leave to bring in a bill, that should obviate any doubts, which might arise concerning the electors of knights of the shire, to serve in parliament for England, and further regulate the proceedings of such elections. He was permitted to bring in such a bill, in conjunction with Mr. Townshend, Mr. Cornwall, the lords North and Carysfort; and in the usual course the bill being prepared, was enacted into a law under the

title of, "An act for further explaining the laws touching the electors of knights of the shire to serve in parliament for that part of Great-Britain called England."

The preamble declared, That though, by an act passed in the eighteenth year of the present reign, it was provided, that no person might vote at the election of a knight or knights of a shire, within England and Wales, without having a freehold-estate, in the country for which he votes, of the clear yearly value of forty shillings, over and above all rents and charges, payable out of or in respect to the same; nevertheless certain persons who hold their estates by copy of court-roll, pretend to a right of voting, and have, at certain times, presumed to vote at the election of any knight or knights of a shire within England or Wales; but every such vote should be void, and the person so voting should forfeit fifty pounds to any candidate for whom such vote should not have been given, and who should first sue for the same, to be recovered with full costs, by action of debt, in any court of judicature. For the more easy recovery of this forfeit, it was enacted, That the plaintiff in such action might only set forth, in the declaration or bill, that the defendant was indebted to him in the sum of
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fifty pounds, alledging the offence for which the suit should be brought, and that the defendant had acted contrary to this act, without mentioning the writ of summons to parliament, or the return thereof; and upon tryal of any issue, the plaintiff should not be obliged to prove the writ of summons to parliament, or the return thereof, or any warrant or authority to the sheriff upon any such writ: that every such action should be commenced within nine months after the fact committed; and that, if the plaintiff should discontinue his action, or be nonsuited, or have judgement given against him, the defendant should recover treble costs.

So far the act, thus procured, may be attended with salutary consequences: but, in all probability, the intention of its first movers and patrons was not fully answered; inasmuch as no provision was made for putting a stop to that spirit of licence, drunkenness, and debauchery, which prevails at almost every election, and throws the whole nation, at the commencement of a parliament, into a state of the most brutal intoxication.

Of the bills that miscarried in the course of this session, some were of a very important and interesting nature. Lord Barrington,

ton, Mr. Thomas Gore, and Mr. Charles Townshend, were ordered by the house to bring in a bill for the more speedy and effectual recruiting of his majesty's land-forces and marines, which was no other than a transcript of the temporary act passed in the preceding session under the same title; but the majority were unwilling to continue it for another year, as it seemed to encroach on the liberty of the subject.

Objections of the same nature were made to another bill, for the more effectually manning of his majesty's navy, for preventing desertion, and for the relief and encouragement of seamen belonging to ships and vessels in the service of the merchants. The purport of this scheme was to establish registers or muster-rolls of all seamen, fishermen, lightermen, and watermen; obliging shipmasters to leave subscribed lists of their crews at offices, maintained for that purpose, that a certain number of them might be chosen by lot for his majesty's service, in case of necessity. This expedient, however, was rejected as evidently tending to interrupt commerce, to clog navigation, to diminish the number of seamen, and, of consequence, to defeat the very purpose for which it was intended.

The method of making private conveyances having been productive of numberless frauds and law-suits, a motion was made, and leave given, to bring in a bill for the public registering of all deeds, conveyances, wills, and other incumbrances, that might affect any honours, manours, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, within the kingdom of England, wherein public registers were not already appointed by act of parliament: but this measure, so necessary to the ascertainment and security of property, was first encountered with a violent opposition, and at last rejected by a majority of voices.

The next object, that engaged the attention of the commons, was a bill explaining and amending a late act for establishing a fish-market in the city of Westminster, and preventing the scandalous monopolies of a few engrossing fishmongers, who imposed exorbitant prices on their fish, and, in this particular branch of traffick, gave law to the whole city of London. Great pains were taken to render this bill effectual, for putting a stop to such flagrant imposition. Inquiries were made, petitions read, counsel heard; and alterations adopted: at length the bill, having passed thro' the lower house, was sent up to the lords,
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by whom it was postponed, on account of there not being sufficient time to deliberate maturely on the subject.

The better to understand the next bill that miscarried, it will be proper to explain the incident, to which it owed its origin. By an act passed in the preceding session, for recruiting his majesty's land-forces and marines, we have already observed, that the commissioners, thereby appointed, were vested with a power of judging ultimately whether the persons brought before them were such as ought, by the rules prescribed in the act, to be impressed into the service: for it was expressly provided, that no person, so impressed by those commissioners, should be taken out of his majesty's service by any process, other than for some criminal accusation.

During the vacation of parliament, a gentleman having been impressed before the commissioners, and confined in the Savoy, his friends made application for a habeas corpus, which produced some doubt, and indeed an insuperable difficulty: for, according to the writ of habeas corpus, passed in the reign of Charles the second, this privilege relates only to persons committed for criminal, or supposed criminal matters; and the gentleman did not stand

64 *The History of ENGLAND.*

in that predicament. Before the question could be decided he was discharged, in consequence of an application to the secretary at war; but the present case plainly pointed out a defect in the act, seemingly of the most dangerous and alarming nature.

In order to supply this defect, a bill for giving a more speedy relief to the subject, upon the writ of habeas corpus, was prepared, and presented to the house of commons, which formed itself into a committee, and made several amendments. It imported, that the several provisions made in the aforesaid act, passed in the reign of Charles the second, for the awarding of writs of habeas corpus, in cases of commitment, or detainer, for any criminal or supposed criminal matter, should, in like manner, extend to all cases where any person, not being committed or detained for any criminal or supposed criminal matter, should be confined or restrained of his or her liberty, under any colour or pretence whatsoever: that, upon oath made by such person so confined or restrained, or by any other on his or her behalf, of any actual confinement or restraint, and that such confinement or restraint, to the best of the knowledge and belief of the person so applying, was not by virtue of any commitment or detainer
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for any criminal or supposed criminal matter; an habeas corpus, directed to the person or persons so confining or restraining the party as aforesaid, should be awarded and granted in the same manner as is directed, and under the same penalties as are provided by the said act, in the case of persons committed and detained for any criminal or supposed criminal matter: that the person or persons, before whom the party so confined or restrained should be brought by virtue of any habeas corpus granted in the vacation time, under the authority of this act, might and should, within three days after the return made, proceed to examine into the facts contained in such return, and into the cause of such confinement and restraint; and thereupon either discharge, or bail, or remand the parties so brought, as the case should require, and as to justice should appertain.

The rest of the bill related to the return of the writ in three days, and the penalties incurred by those who should neglect or refuse to make the due return, or to comply with any other clause of this regulation. The commons seemed zealous in establishing this additional security to the liberty of their fellow-subjects, and passed the bill with the utmost expedition: but in the

house of lords such a number of objections was made to it, that it sunk at the second reading, and the judges were ordered to prepare a bill for the same purpose, to be laid before that house in the next session.

His majesty having recommended the care of the foundling-hospital to the house of commons, which chearfully allotted forty thousand pounds for the support of that charity, the growing annual expence of it appeared worthy of further consideration; and leave was given to bring in a bill for obliging all the parishes of England and Wales to keep registers of all their deaths, births, and marriages, that from these a fund might be raised towards the support of the said hospital. The bill was accordingly prepared by a committee appointed for the purpose; but, before the house could take the report into consideration, the parliament was prorogued.

The proprietors of the privateer called the *Antigallican*, which had taken a rich French ship homeward bound from China, and carried her into Cadiz, where the Spanish government had wrested her by violence from the captors, and restored her to the French owners, now presented a petition to the house of commons, complaining of this interposition as an act of partiality

tiality and injustice; representing the great expence at which the privateer had been fitted out, the legality of the capture, the loss and hardships which they the petitioners had suffered, and imploring such relief as to the house seem reasonable.

Though these allegations were supported by a number of concurrent evidences, and it might be thought incumbent on the parliament to vindicate the honour of the nation, when thus insulted by a foreign power, the house, upon this occasion, paid little or no regard to the petition, either disbelieving the assertions it contained, or unwilling to take any step which might at this juncture embroil the nation with the court of Spain, on such a frivolous subject. True it is, the Spaniards alledged, as an excuse for their own conduct, that the prize was taken under the guns of Corunna, inso-much that the shot fired by the privateer entered that place, and damaged some houses: but this circumstance was never sufficiently proved, and the prize was certainly condemned as legal by the court of admiralty at Gibraltar.

The African trade being justly considered as a matter of great importance to the nation, an annual sum had, for some years, been granted for the support of the settle-
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68 *The History of* ENGLAND.

ments in that part of the world, and for the maintenance and repairs of castles and factories. While a committee was employed in perusing the accounts relating to the sum granted in the preceding session for this purpose, a petition from the African company, recommended in a message from his majesty, was presented to the house, soliciting farther assistance for the ensuing year.

In opposition to this petition, a remonstrance was offered by certain planters and merchants, interested in and trading to the British sugar-colonies in America, alleging, that the price of negroes was greatly advanced, since the forts and settlements on the coast of Africa had been under the direction of the committee of the company of merchants trading to that coast; a circumstance that greatly distressed and alarmed the petitioners, prevented the cultivation of the British colonies, and was of great detriment to the trade and navigation of the kingdom: that this misfortune, they believed, was in some measure owing to the ruinous state and condition of the forts and settlements: that, in their opinion, the most effectual method for maintaining the interest of that trade on a respectable footing, next to that of an incorporated joint-stock company, would be the putting those
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ports and settlements under the sole direction of the commissioners for trade and plantations: that the preservation or ruin of the American sugar colonies, went hand in hand with that of the slave-trade to Africa: and that, by an act passed in the year 1750, for extending and improving this trade, the British subjects were debarred from lodging their slaves and merchandize in the ports and settlements on the coast.

They therefore prayed, that this part of the act might be repealed: that all commanders of British and American vessels, free merchants, and all other of his majesty's subjects, who were settled, or might, at any time thereafter, settle in Africa, should have free liberty, from sun-rise to sun-set, to enter the ports and settlements, and to deposit their goods and merchandize in the warehouses thereunto belonging; to secure their slaves or other purchases, without paying any consideration for the same; but the slaves to be victualled at the proper cost and charges of their respective owners. The house having taken this petition into consideration, inquired into the proceedings of the company, and revised the act for extending and improving the trade to Africa, resolved, that the committee of the African company had faithfully

fully discharged the trust reposed in them; and granted ten thousand pounds for maintaining the British forts and settlements in that part of the world.

Some attempts were made in the course of this session, to revive the act for triennial parliaments; but as this measure had been found, by former experience, to be attended with more bad than good consequences, it was rejected, on a division, by a considerable majority.

Several committees were, likewise, appointed to inquire into the expence incurred by new lines and fortifications raised at Gibraltar; to examine the original standards of weights and measures used in England; consider the laws relating to them, and report their observations, together with their opinion of the most effectual means for ascertaining and enforcing uniform standards, to be used for the future. The commons were perfectly satisfied with the new works which had been raised at Gibraltar; and with respect to the weights and measures, the committee agreed to certain resolutions; but no further progress was made in this inquiry, except an order for printing these resolutions, with the appendix: however, as the boxes containing the standards were ordered to be locked up by the clerk of the house,

house, it seemed as if they had some intention to resume the subject in the ensuing session.

On the ninth day of June several bills received the royal assent by commission, his majesty being indisposed; and on the twentieth day of the same month, the lords commissioners closed the session with a speech to both houses, expressing his majesty's deep sense of their loyalty and good affection, demonstrated in their late proceedings; in their zeal for his honour and real interest in all parts; in their earnestness to surmount every difficulty; and their ardour to maintain the war with the utmost vigour: circumstances, which must convince mankind, that the antient spirit of the British nation still subsisted in its full force. They were given to understand, that the king had taken all such measures as appeared the most conducive to the accomplishment of their public-spirited views and wishes: that with their assistance, crowned by the blessing of God upon the conduct and bravery of the combined army, his majesty had been enabled, not only to deliver his dominions in Germany from the oppressions and devastations of the French, but also to push his advantages on this side the Rhine: that he had cemented the union between him and his
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good brother the king of Prussia, by new engagements: that the British fleets and armies were now actually employed in such expeditions, as appeared likely to annoy the enemy in the most sensible manner, to promote the welfare and prosperity of these kingdoms; in particular, to preserve the British rights and possessions in America, and to make France feel, in those parts, the real strength and importance of Great-Britain. The commons were thanked for the ample supplies which they had so freely and unanimously given; and assured on the part of his majesty, that they should be managed with the most frugal economy. They were desired, in consequence of the king's earnest recommendation, to promote harmony and good agreement amongst his faithful subjects: to make the people acquainted with the rectitude and purity of his intentions and measures; and to exert themselves in maintaining the peace and good order of the country, by enforcing obedience to the laws and lawful authority.

The king, it must be owned, had great reason to be satisfied with the conduct of his ministers, and the spirit of his people. The whole nation reposed the most unlimited confidence in the courage and discretion, as well as in the integrity of the minister who

who seemed bent upon prosecuting the war with such vigour and activity, as might soon bring the enemy to reasonable terms. New levies were made, new ships equipped, fresh expeditions planned, and fresh conquests projected. Such was the credit of the administration, that people subscribed to the government loans with surprising alacrity. An uncommon spirit of courage and intrepidity seemed to animate all the individuals that composed the army and navy; and the passion for military fame diffused itself through all ranks in the civil department of life, even to the very lowest of the populace. Such a remarkable change from indolence to activity, from indifference to zeal, from timorous caution to undaunted resolution, was effected by the influence and example of an intelligent and intrepid minister, who chagrined at the losses and disgraces of the preceding campaign, had, on a very solemn occasion, lately declared his belief, that there was a fixt resolution, both in the naval and military commanders, against any vigorous exertion of the national power in the service of their country.

He affirmed, that though his majesty appeared ready to embrace every measure proposed by his ministers for the honour and interest of his British dominions, yet scarce

a man could be found with whom the execution of any one plan, in which there was the least appearance of any danger, could, with confidence, be trusted. He mentioned, in particular, the inactivity of one general in North America, from whose abilities and personal bravery the nation had conceived the greatest expectations. He complained, that this commander had expressed the most contemptuous disregard for the civil power, from which he derived his authority, by neglecting to transmit, for a considerable length of time, any other advice of his proceedings but what appeared on a written scrap of paper. He observed, that, with a force by land and sea, greater than ever the nation had heretofore maintained; with a king and ministry ardently desirous of redeeming her glory, succouring her allies, and promoting her true interest; a shameful dislike to service every where prevailed; and few seemed affected with any other zeal than that of aspiring to the highest posts, and grasping the largest salaries.

The censure pointed at the commander in America, seems, in a great measure, to have been founded on mistake: the inactivity of that able general was principally, if not entirely, owing to the spirit of discord and dissension that prevailed among the

English provinces in America; and which, while it continued to subsist in its full force, effectually prevented the accomplishment of any enterprize of importance.

All sorts of military preparations in founderies, docks, arsenals, raising and exercising troops, and victualling transports, were now carried on with such diligence and dispatch, as seemed to promise an exertion that would soon obliterate the disagreeable remembrance of past misfortunes. The beginning of the year, however, was a little clouded by a general concern for the death of his majesty's third daughter, the princess Caroline, a lady of the most exemplary virtue and amiable endowments, who died at the age of forty five, sincerely regretted as a pattern of unaffected piety, and unbounded benevolence.

The British cruisers kept the sea during all the severity of winter, in order to protect the trade of the kingdom, and distress that of the enemy. They exerted themselves with such diligence and success that a great number of prizes was taken, and the commerce of France almost entirely ruined. A very gallant exploit was performed by one captain Bray, commander of the Adventure, a small armed vessel in the government's service. Falling in with the Machault, a large

76 *The History of* ENGLAND.

privateer of Dunkirk, near Dungeness, he ran her aboard, fastened her bowsprit to his capstan, and, after a warm engagement, compelled her commander to submit. A French frigate of thirty-six guns was taken by captain Parker, in a new fir-ship of inferior force. Several privateers of the enemy were sunk, burned, or taken; and a great number of merchant-ships fell into the hands of the English.

Nor were the English ships of war less successful in the American, than in the European seas. About this time, the board of admiralty received advice from admiral Cotes, in Jamaica, of an action which happened off the island of Hispaniola, in the month of October of the preceding year, between three English ships of war and a French squadron. Captain Forrest, an officer of distinguished abilities, had, in the ship *Augusta*, sailed from Port-Royal in Jamaica, accompanied by the *Dreadnought* and *Edinburgh*, under the command of the captains Suckling and Langdon.

He was ordered to cruise off Cape-Francois; and this service he punctually performed, in the face of a French squadron of much greater force, lately arrived at that place from the coast of Africa. The commander, piqued at seeing himself thus insulted by an inferior
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armament, resolved to give them battle ; and that he might either take them, or at least, drive them out of those seas, so as to afford a free passage to a great number of merchant ships then lying at the Cape, bound for Europe, he took every precaution which he thought necessary to insure success. With this view he strengthened his Squadron with some storeships, mounted with guns and armed for the occasion, and supplied the deficiency in his complements, by taking on board seamen from the merchant-ships, and soldiers from the garrison.

Thus equipped, he weighed anchor and stood out to sea, having under his command four large ships of the line, and three stout frigates. They were no sooner perceived advancing than captain Forrest held a short council with his two captains. " Gentlemen (said he) you know our own strength, and see that of the enemy: shall we give them battle ?" They replying in the affirmative, he added, " Then fight them we will ; there is no time to be lost : return to your ships, and get them ready for engaging."

After this laconic consultation among these three gallant officers, they bore down upon the French Squadron without further

hesitation, and between three and four in the afternoon the action began with incredible fury. The enemy exerted themselves with uncommon activity, conscious that their honour was peculiarly at stake, and that they fought in sight, as it were, of their own coast, which was lined with people, expecting to see them return in triumph. But notwithstanding their most vigorous efforts, their commodore, after having sustained a severe engagement that lasted two hours and a half, found his ship in such a shattered condition, that he made signal for one of his frigates to come and tow him out of the line. His example was followed by the rest of his squadron, which, by this means, with the favour of a land breeze and the approach of night, made shift to accomplish their escape from the three British ships, that were too much disabled in their masts and rigging to prosecute their victory.

One of the French squadron was rendered altogether unfit for service: their loss in men amounted to three hundred killed, and as many wounded; whereas that of the English did not exceed one third of this number. Nevertheless they were so much damaged, that being unable to keep the sea, they returned

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to Jamaica; and the French commodore seized the opportunity of sailing with a great convoy for Europe.

Captain Forrest's bravery was not more remarkable in this engagement than his conduct and sagacity in a subsequent adventure near Port au Prince, a French harbour, situated at the bottom of a bay on the western part of Hispaniola, behind the small island of Gonave. After Mr. de Kerfin had set sail from Cape Francois for Europe, admiral Cotes, beating up to windward from Port Royal in Jamaica with three ships of the line, received intelligence that there was a French fleet at Port au Prince, ready to sail on their return to Europe. In consequence of this advice, he ordered captain Forrest to cruize off the island Gonave for two days only, enjoining him at the same time to return at the expiration of that period, and rejoin the squadron at Cape Nicholas.

Accordingly captain Forrest, in the Augusta, proceeded up the bay, between the island Gonave and Hispaniola, with a view to execute a plan which he had himself projected. Next day in the afternoon, tho' he perceived two sloops, he forebore chasing, that he might not risque a discovery: for the same purpose he hoisted Dutch colours,

lours, and disguised his ship with tarpaulins. At five in the afternoon he discovered seven sail of ships steering to the westward, and hauled from them to avoid suspicion; but at the approach of night gave chase with all the sail he could carry. About ten he perceived two sail, one of which fired a gun, and the other made the best of her way for Leoganne, another harbour in the bay.

At this time captain Forrest reckoned eight sail to leeward, near another port called Petit Goave: coming up with the ship which had fired the gun, she submitted without opposition, after he had hailed and told her captain what he was, produced two of his largest cannon, and threatened to sink her if she should give the least alarm. He forthwith removed the prisoners from this prize, and placed on board of her five and thirty of his own crew, with orders to stand for Petit Goave, and intercept any of the fleet that might attempt to get into that harbour. Then he made sail after the rest, and in the dawn of the morning, finding himself in the middle of their fleet, he began to fire at them all in their turns, as he could bring his guns to bear. They returned the fire for some time; at length the *Marguerite*, the *Solide*, and the *Theodore* struck

struck their colours. These, being secured, were afterwards employed in taking the Maurice, Le Grand, and La Flore: the Brilliant also submitted; and the Mars made sail in hope of escaping; but the Augusta coming up with her about noon, she likewise fell into the hands of the victor.

Thus, by a well-conducted stratagem, a whole fleet of nine sail were taken by a single ship, in the neighbourhood of four or five harbours, in any one of which they would have found immediate shelter and protection. The prizes, which happened to be richly laden, were safely conveyed to Jamaica, and there sold at public auction for the benefit of the captors, who may safely challenge history to produce such another instance of success.

The ministry having resolved to make vigorous efforts against the enemy in North-America, admiral Boscawen was appointed to the command of the fleet destined for that service, and sailed from St. Helens on the nineteenth day of February, when the Invincible of seventy-four guns, one of the best ships that composed his squadron, run aground and perished; but her men, stores, and artillery were saved.

In the course of the ensuing month, Sir Edward Hawke entered the bay of Biscay with

82 *The History of ENGLAND.*

with another Squadron, in order to intercept any supplies from France designed for Cape-Breton or Canada; and about the same time the town of Embden, belonging to his Prussian majesty, which had fallen into the hands of the enemy, was happily delivered by the conduct of commodore Holmes, stationed on that coast, who sent up two of his small ships to anchor in the river between Knok and the city. The garrison, consisting of three thousand seven hundred men, finding themselves thus cut off from all communication with the country below, evacuated the place with great precipitation; and some of their baggage being sent off by water, was taken by the boats which the commodore detached for that purpose.

It was about the same time that the admiralty received information of another advantage by sea, which had been gained by admiral Osborne, while he cruised between Cape de Gatt and Carthagena on the coast of Spain. On the twenty-eighth day of March he fell in with a French Squadron, commanded by the marquis du Questre, consisting of four ships, namely, the Foudroyant of eighty guns, the Orphée of sixty-four, the Oriflamme of fifty, and the Pleiade frigate of twenty four, in their passage from Toulon to reinforce M. de la Clue, who

who had for some time been blocked up by admiral Osborne in the harbour of Carthage.

The enemy no sooner descried the English squadron than they dispersed, and steered different courses : then Mr. Osborne detached several ships in pursuit of each, while he himself, with the body of his fleet, stood off for the bay of Carthage, to observe the motions of the French squadron which there lay at anchor. About seven in the evening the *Orphée*, having on board five hundred men, struck to captain Stor in the *Revenge*, who lost the calf of one leg in the engagement, during which he was supported by the ships *Berwick* and *Preston*.

The *Monmouth* of sixty four guns, commanded by captain Gardiner, attacked the *Foudroyant*, one of the largest ships in the French navy, mounted with fourscore cannon, and containing eight hundred men, under the conduct of the marquis du Quesne. This is the same Mr. Gardiner, who, in the famous battle between the admirals Byng and Glasfioniere in the Mediterranean, commanded the *Ramillies*, under the direction of the British admiral ; and his courage having incurred some suspicion on account of his behaviour in that

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action, he was determined to wipe off the disgrace. He therefore maintained the engagement with incredible fury, until he lost his life by a musket ball: nevertheless the fight was continued with unabating vigour by his lieutenant Mr. Carkett, and the Foudroyant disabled in such a manner, that her commander struck as soon as the other English ships, the Swifture and the Hampton-court, appeared.

This last step, however, he did not take until he saw his ship lie like a wreck upon the water, and the deck covered with dead carcases. The *Oriflamme* was driven on shore under the castle of Aiglos, by the ships *Montague* and *Monarque*, commanded by the captains Rowley and Montague, who could not complete her destruction without violating the neutrality of Spain. As for the *Pleiade* frigate, she made her escape by being a prime sailor.

This was a severe blow to the enemy, who not only lost two of their capital ships, but had the misfortune to see them added to the navy of Great-Britain; and the disaster was followed by another, which they could not help feeling with an equal degree of sensibility. In the beginning of April, Sir Edward Hawke steering with his squadron into Basque-road, on the coast of Poitou,

rou, descried off the isle of Aix a French fleet at anchor, consisting of five ships of the line, with six frigates, and forty transports, having on board three thousand troops, and a large quantity of stores and provision, intended as a reinforcement for their settlements in North America.

They no sooner saw the English admiral advancing, than they began to slip their cables and fly with the utmost precipitation. Some of them escaped to sea, but the greater number ran into shallow water, where they could not be pursued; and next morning they appeared aground, lying on their broadsides. Sir Edward Hawke, who had rode all night at anchor abreast of the isle of Aix, furnished the ships Intrepid and Medway with trusty pilots, and sent them farther in when the flood began to make, with orders to sound a-head, that he might know whether there was any possibility of attacking the enemy; but the want of a sufficient depth of water rendered this scheme impracticable.

In the mean time the French threw over-board their cannon, stores, and ballast; and boats and launches from Rochefort, were employed in carrying out warps to drag their ships through the soft mud, as soon as they should be floated by the tide. By

86 *The History of* ENGLAND.

these means their large ships of war, and many of their transports were conveyed into the river Charente; but their loading was lost, and the end of their equipment totally defeated.

Another convoy of merchant ships, under the protection of three frigates, had, a few days before, been chased by Sir Edward Hawke into the harbour of St. Martin's on the isle of Rhé, where they still remained, waiting an opportunity for hazard- ing a second departure: and a third, consisting of twelve sail, bound from Bourdeaux to Quebec, under convoy of a frigate and armed vessel, was encountered at sea by one British ship of the line and two fire-ships, which took the frigate and armed vessel, and two of the convoy afterwards met with the same same fate; but this advantage was dearly purchased by the loss of captain James Hume, commander of the *Plato* fireship, a brave accomplished officer, who, in an unequal combat with the enemy, refused to quit the deck even when he was disabled, and fell gloriously covered with wounds, exhorting the people with his latest breath, to continue the engagement while the ship could swim, and acquit themselves with honour in the service of their country.

On the twenty-ninth day of May the *Raisonable*, a French ship of the line, mounted with sixty-four cannon, having on board six hundred and thirty men, commanded by the prince de Mombazon chevalier de Rohan, was, in her passage from Port l'Orient to Brest, attacked by captain Dennis in the *Dorsetshire* of seventy guns, and taken after an obstinate engagement, in which one hundred and sixty men of the prince's complement were killed or wounded, and the sails and rigging of his ship almost entirely destroyed.

The joy, arising from these successes, was, however, considerably damped by a lamentable disaster that befel the ship prince George of eighty guns, commanded by rear admiral Broderick, in his passage to the Mediterranean. On the thirtieth day of April, between one and two in the afternoon, a dreadful fire broke out in the fore-part of the ship, and raged with such violence, that, notwithstanding all the efforts of the officers and men for several hours, the flames increased, and the ship being consumed to the water edge, the remnant sunk about six o'clock in the evening. The horror and consternation of such a scene are more easily conceived than described. When all endeavours proved ineffectual, and no

88 *The History of* ENGLAND.

hope of preserving the ship remained, the barge was hoisted out for the preservation of the admiral, who entered it accordingly; but all distinction of persons being now abolished, the seamen rushed into it in such crowds, that in a few moments it overset. The admiral foreseeing that this would be the case, stripped off his cloaths, and committing himself to the mercy of the waves, was saved by the boat of a merchant ship, after he had sustained himself in the sea a full hour by swimming.

Captain Payton, who was the second in command, remained upon the quarter-deck as long as it was possible to keep that station, and then descending by the stern ladder, had the good fortune to be taken into a boat belonging to the sloop Alderney. The hull of the ship, masts, and rigging, were now in a blaze, bursting tremendous in several parts through horrid clouds of smoak: nothing was heard but the crackling of the flames, mingled with the dismal cries of terror and distraction; nothing was seen but acts of frenzy and desperation. The miserable wretches, affrighted at the horrors of such a conflagration, sought a fate less dreadful by plunging into the sea; and about three hundred men were preserved by the boats belonging to some

some ships that accompanied the admiral in his voyage, but five hundred perished in the ocean.

The king of Great-Britain, being firmly resolved to renew his attempts upon the coast of France, ordered a very formidable armament to be equipped for that purpose. Two powerful squadrons by sea were appointed for the service of this expedition: the first, consisting of eleven great ships, was commanded by lord Anson and Sir Edward Hawke: the other, composed of four ships of the line, seven frigates, six sloops, two fireships, two bombs, ten cutters, twenty tenders, ten storeships, and one hundred transports, was put under the direction of commodore Howe, who had signalized himself by his gallantry and conduct in the course of the last fruitless expedition.

The plan of a descent upon France having been projected by the ministry, a body of troops consisting of sixteen regiments, nine troops of light horse, and six thousand marines, was assembled for the execution of this design, and embarked under the command of the duke of Marlborough; a nobleman, who though he did not possess all the military genius of his grandfather, was yet, confessedly, a brave and gallant officer. On this occasion, he was assisted by the

counfels of lord George Sackville, second in command, fon to the duke of Dorfet; a gentleman not more diftinguifhed for his military than his civil abilities.

The troops having for fome time been encamped on the ifle of Wight, were embarked in the latter end of May, and the two fleets failed in the beginning of June for the coaft of Bretagne, leaving the people of England big with expectations of the event of the enterprize.

The two fleets feparated at fea: lord Anfon with his fquadron bent his courfe to the bay of Bifcay, in order to watch the motions of the enemy's fhips, and interrupt their navigation; while commodore Howe with the land-forces fteered directly towards St. Malo, a ftrong place of confiderable commerce, fituated on the coaft of Bretagne, againft which the prefent invafion feemed to be chiefly levelled. The town, however, was fo well fortified both by art and nature, that no attempt by fea could be made upon it, with any profpect of fuccefs; and therefore it was refolved to make a defcent in the neighbourhood. After the fleet had been, by contrary winds, detained feveral days in fight of the French coaft, it arrived in the bay of Cancefle, about two leagues to the eaftward of St. Malo; and Mr. Howe having

ing silenced a small battery which the enemy had occasionally erected upon the beach, the troops were landed, without farther opposition, on the sixth day of June.

The duke of Marlborough immediately began his march towards St. Servan, with a view to destroy such shipping and magazines as might be in any accessible parts of the river; and this scheme was executed with equal spirit and success. A great quantity of naval stores, two ships of war, several privateers, and about fourscore vessels of different sorts, were set on fire, and reduced to ashes, almost under the cannon of the place, which, however they could not pretend to besiege in form. His grace, having received intelligence that the enemy were busily employed in collecting forces to cut off his retreat, returned to Cancalle; where Mr. Howe had made such a masterly disposition of the boats and transports, that the reembarkation of the troops was accomplished with surprising ease and expedition. The forces, while they continued on shore, were restrained from all outrages by the most severe discipline; and the French houses, which their inhabitants had deserted, were left untouched.

Immediately after their landing, the duke of Marlborough, as commander in chief,

chief, published and distributed a manifesto, addressed to the people of Bretagne, importing, that his descent upon the coast was not effected with a design to make war on the inhabitants of the open country, except such as should be found in arms, or otherwise opposing the operations of the British forces: that all, who were willing to remain in peaceable possession of their effects, might stay unmolested in their respective dwellings, and follow their usual occupations: that, besides the customs and taxes they used to pay to their own king, nothing should be required of them but what was absolutely necessary for the subsistence of the army; and, for all provisions brought in, they should be payed in ready money: but that if, notwithstanding these assurances of protection, they should carry off their effects and provisions, and abandon the places of their habitation, he would treat them as enemies, and destroy their houses with fire and sword.

To the magistracy of St. Malo he likewise sent a letter, intimating, that as all the inhabitants of the town and villages between Dinant, Rennes, and Doll, now in his possession, had deserted their habitations, probably to avoid the payment of the usual contributions; and as he was informed, that the
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magistrates had compelled the people of the country to retire into the town of St. Malo, he now gave them notice, that if they did not immediately send them back to their houses, and come themselves to his headquarters to settle the contributions, he should think himself obliged to proceed to military execution. These threats, however, were not put in force, although the magistrates of St. Malo did not think proper to comply with his injunction.

But it was found altogether impossible to prevent irregularities among troops employed in such an expedition. Some houses were plundered, and not without acts of cruelty: but those offenders were brought to immediate justice; and it must be owned as an incontestable proof of the general's humanity, that in destroying the magazines of the enemy at St. Servan, which may be termed the Suburbs of St. Malo, he ordered one small storehouse to be spared, because it could not be set on fire without endangering the whole district.

The British forces being reembarked, with the loss of about thirty men missing, the fleet was detained by contrary winds in the bay of Cancele for several days; during which a design seems to have been formed for attacking Granville, which had been

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94. *The History of* ENGLAND.

reconnoitred by some of the engineers: but, in consequence of their report, the scheme was laid aside, and the fleet stood out to sea, where it was exposed to some rough weather.

In a few days, the wind blowing in a northern direction, they steered again towards the French coast, and ran in with the land near Havre de Grace, where the flat-bottomed boats, provided for landing, were hoisted out, and a second disembarkation expected. But the wind blowing violently towards the evening, the boats were again hauled on board, and the fleet obliged to quit the land, in order to avoid the dangers of a lee shore. Next day, the weather being more moderate, they returned to the same station, and orders were given to prepare for a descent; but the duke of Marlborough having taken a view of the coast in an open cutter, accompanied by commodore Howe, thought proper to wave the attempt.

Their next step was to bear away before the wind for Cherbourg, in the neighbourhood of which place the fleet came to anchor. Here some of the transports were saluted by the fire of six different batteries; and a considerable body of troops appeared in arms, to oppose the landing: nevertheless

less the general determined that the forts Querqueville, and Gallet, should be attacked in the night by the first regiment of of guards. The soldiers were actually distributed in the flat bottomed boats, and every preparation made for this purpose, when the wind began to blow with such violence, that the troops could not be landed without the most imminent danger; nor properly sustained, in case of a repulse, even if the disembarkation could have been effected.

This attempt was, therefore, abandoned; but, at the same time, a resolution taken to stand in towards the shore with the whole fleet, to cover a general landing. A disposition was made accordingly; but the storm increasing, the transports ran foul of each other: and the ships were exposed to all the perils of a lee shore; for the gale blew directly upon the coast: besides, the provisions began to fail, and the hay for the horses was almost exhausted. These concurring reasons induced the commanders to defer the disembarkation to a more favourable opportunity. The fleet stood out to sea, the tempest abated, they steered for the isle of Wight, and next day anchored at St. Helens.

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Such was the issue of an enterprize, which, though it did not answer the expectations of the public, was yet productive of infinite damage to the enemy: for the loss they sustained by the conflagration at St. Malo, is said to have amounted to twenty-four millions of livres.

The designs upon the coast of France, though interrupted by tempestuous weather, were not as yet laid aside for the whole season: but, in the mean time, the troops were disembarked on the isle of Wight; and one brigade marched to the northward, to join a body of troops, with which the government resolved to reinforce the army of the allies in Germany, commanded by prince Ferdinand of Brunswic. The duke of Marlborough and lord George Sackville being appointed to conduct this British corps upon the continent, the command of the marine expeditions devolved upon lieutenant-general Bligh, an old experienced officer, who had served with reputation; and his royal highness prince Edward, afterwards created duke of York, entered as a volunteer with commodore Howe, in order to learn the rudiments of the sea-service.

The remainder of the troops being reimparked, and every thing prepared for the second expedition, the fleet sailed from St.

Helens

Helens on the first day of August; and after a tedious passage, from calms and contrary winds, arrived on the seventh in the bay of Cherbourg. By this time, the enemy had intrenched themselves within a line, extending from the fort Ecoeurdeville, which stands about two miles to the westward of Cherbourg, along the coast for the space of four miles, fortified with several batteries at proper distances. Behind this retrenchment a large body of regular troops, reinforced by militia, appeared in good order; but as they did not advance to the open beach, the less risque was run in landing the British forces.

At first a bomb-ketch, had been sent to anchor near the town, and throw some shells into the place, as a feint to amuse the enemy, and deceive them with regard to the place of disembarkation: while the general had determined to land about a league to the westward of Querqueville, the most western fort in the bay. The other bomb-ketches, being posted along shore, did considerable execution upon the intrenchments, not only by throwing shells in the usual way, but also by using ball-mortars, filled with great quantities of balls, which may be thrown to a great distance,

98 *The History of* ENGLAND.

tance, and, by scattering as they fly, do abundance of mischief.

While these ketches maintained a continual fire, the grenadiers and guards were conveyed regularly ashore in the flat-bottomed boats, and landing without opposition, instantly drew up on a small open part of the beach, with a natural breastwork in their front; having on one side a hollow way, and a village rising beyond it with a sudden ascent: on the other, the ground was intersected by hedges, and covered with orchards; and from this quarter the enemy advanced in order. The British troops immediately quitted the breastwork, in order to meet them half way, and a straggling fire began; but the French edging to the left, took possession of the hill, from whence they piqueered with the advanced posts of the English.

In the mean time the rest of the infantry were disembarked, and the enemy at night retreated. As the light troops were not yet landed, general Bligh encamped that night at the village of Erville, on a piece of ground that did not extend four hundred paces; so that the tents were crowded together in a confused and irregular manner. Next morning the general being informed, that no parties of the enemy were seen moving on the hill, or
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in the plain, and that Fort Querqueville was entirely deserted, made a disposition for marching in two columns to Cherbourg. An advanced party took immediate possession of Querqueville; and the lines and batteries along the shore were now abandoned by the enemy.

The British forces marching behind St. Aulne, Ecoeurdeville, Hommet, and la Gallet, found the town of Cherbourg likewise undefended, and the gates being open, entered it without opposition. The citizens, encouraged by a promise of protection, received their new guests with a profusion of civilities; notwithstanding which the soldiers indulged themselves in some irregularities: but these were no sooner discovered than the offenders were brought to condign punishment, and the army kept to the most strict discipline. Next morning the place being surveyed, the general determined to destroy the forts and the bason; and the execution of this design was left to the engineers, assisted by the officers of the fleet and artillery.

Great sums of money had been expended upon the harbour and bason of Cherbourg, which, at one time, was considered by the French court as an object of great importance, from its situation respecting the river

100 *The History of ENGLAND.*

Seine, as well as the opposite coast of England; but as the works were left unfinished, in all probability, the plan had grown into disrepute. The enemy had raised several unconnected batteries along the bay, but the town itself was quite open and defenceless. While the engineers were employed in demolishing the works, the light horse scoured the country, and detachments were every day sent out towards Walloign, at the distance of four leagues from Cherbourg, where the enemy were encamped; and every hour received reinforcements. Several skirmishes were fought by the out-parties of each army, in one of which captain Lindsay, a gallant young officer, who had a considerable share in training the light horse, was mortally wounded.

The harbour and bason of Cherbourg being destroyed, together with all the forts in the neighbourhood, and about twenty pieces of brass cannon conveyed on board the English ships; a contribution, amounting to about three thousand pounds sterling, was exacted from the town; and a plan of reembarkation concerted, as it appeared from the reports of peasants and deserters, that the enemy were already increased to a formidable number. A slight intrenchment being raised, sufficient to defend the last

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division that should be reembarked, the stores and artillery were shipped, and the light horse immediately carried on board their respective transports, by means of platforms laid in the flat-bottomed vessels. On the sixteenth day of August, at three o'clock in the morning, the forces marched from Cherbourg down to the beach, and reembarked at Fort Gallet, without the least disturbance from the enemy.

This service being happily performed, the fleet set sail for the coast of England, and anchored in the road of Weymouth, under the high land of Portland. In two days it weighed and stood again to the southward; but was obliged, by contrary winds, to return to the same station. The second effort, however, was more successful. The fleet, with some difficulty, kept the sea, and steering to the French coast, arrived in the bay of St. Lunaire, two leagues to the westward of St. Malo, upon which it was determined to make another attempt. The sloops and ketches being posted along-shore to cover the landing, the troops were debarked on a fair open beach, and a small party detached to the harbour of St. Briac, above the town of St. Malo, where they destroyed about fifteen small vessels: but St. Malo itself being carefully reconnoitered,

appeared to be impregnable either by the land-forces or the shipping.

The mouth of the river, that forms its basin, extends above two miles in breadth at its narrowest part, so as to be out of the reach of land-batteries; and the entrance is defended by such forts and batteries, as the ships of war could not pretend to silence, considering the difficult navigation of the channel: besides fifty pieces of large cannon planted on these forts and batteries, the enemy had mounted forty on the west side of the town; and the basin was, moreover, strengthened by seven frigates or armed vessels, whose guns might have been brought to bear upon any batteries that could be raised on shore, as well as upon ships entering by the usual channel.

For these reasons the design against St. Malo was relinquished; but the general being unwilling to reembark without having taken some step for the further annoyance of the enemy, determined to penetrate into the country, regulating his motions, however, by those of the fleet, which had, by this time, quitted the bay of St. Lunaire, where it could not ride with any safety, and anchored in the bay of St. Cas, about three leagues to the westward.

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On the eighth of September, general Bligh, with his little army, began his march for Guildo at the distance of nine miles, which he reached in the evening. Next day he passed a little gut or inlet of the sea, at low water, and his troops being harassed by the peasants, who fired at them from hedges and houses, he sent a priest with a message, importing, that, if they would not desist, he would reduce their houses to ashes. No regard being payed to this intimation, the houses were actually set on fire as soon as the troops had formed their camp about two miles on the other side of the inlet. Next morning he advanced to the village of Matignon, where, after some irregular firing, the French piquets appeared, drawn up in order, to the number of two battalions; but having stood a few discharges of the English field pieces, and seeing the grenadiers approach, they suddenly dispersed,

General Bligh continuing his route thro' the village, encamped in the open ground about three miles from the bay of St. Cas, which was this day reconnoitred for re-embarkation: for he now received undoubted intelligence, that the duke d'Aiguillon had advanced from Brest to Lambale, within six miles of the English camp, at the head of
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twelve regular battalions, six squadrons, two regiments of militia, eight mortars, and ten pieces of cannon. The bay of St. Cas was covered by an intrenchment which the enemy had thrown up, the more effectually to prevent any disembarkation; and on the outside of this work there was a range of sand-hills extending along shore, which could have served as a cover to the enemy, from whence they might have annoyed the troops in reembarking. For this reason a proposal was made, that the forces should be reembarked from a fair open beach on the left, between St. Cas and Guildo; but this advice was rejected, and, indeed, the subsequent operations of the army seem to have been conducted with little prudence or discretion,

Had the troops decamped in the night without noise, in all probability they would have arrived at the beach before the French had received the least intelligence of their motion; and, in that case, the whole army, amounting to about six thousand five hundred men, might have been reembarked without interruption: but, instead of this cautious manner of proceeding, the drums were beaten at two o'clock in the morning, which could not fail to betray their intention to the enemy. The troops were in motion

motion before three, and, though the length of the march did not exceed three miles, the halts and interruptions were so numerous and frequent, that they did not arrive on the beach at St. Cas till nine. Then the embarkation was begun, and might have been happily accomplished, had the transports lain near the shore, and received the men, as fast as the boats could have conveyed them on board without distinction : but many ships rode at a considerable distance, and every boat carried the men on board the respective transports to which they belonged ; a punctilio of disposition, which, in cases of emergency, ought never to be regarded. The small ships and bomb-ketches were brought near the shore to cover the reembarkation ; and a considerable number of sea officers was stationed on the beach to superintend the boats crews, and regulate the service ; but notwithstanding all their attention, some of the boats were employed in carrying off horses, and cows, and other booty : had all the cutters and small craft belonging to the fleet been properly occupied in the service, the disgrace and disaster of the day would, in a great measure, have been prevented.

The British forces had skirmished a little on their march, but no considerable body of
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106 *The History of* ENGLAND.

the enemy appeared until the embarkation was begun: then they took possession of an eminence by a wind mill, and forthwith opened a battery of ten cannon and eight mortars, from whence they fired with considerable effect upon the soldiers on the beach, and on the boats in their passage. They afterwards began to march down the hill, partly covered by a hollow-way on their left, with design to gain a wood, where they might form and extend themselves along the front of the English, and advance against them under shelter of the sand-hills; but in their descent they suffered extremely from the cannon and mortars of the shipping, which made great havock and threw them into confusion. Their line of march down the hill was broken, and, for some time, continued in disorder: then they turned off to one side, extended themselves along a hill to their left, and advanced in a hollow-way, from whence they suddenly rushed out to the attack.

Though the greater part of the British troops were already embarked, the rear-guard, consisting of all the grenadiers, and half of the first regiment of guards, remained on the shore to the number of fifteen hundred, under the command of major-general Dury. This officer seeing the ene-
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my advance, ordered his troops to form in grand divisions, and march from behind the bank that covered them, in order to attack the enemy before they could be formed on the plain. This step of Mr. Dury's has been generally condemned as rash and imprudent; for had he kept behind the breast-work, he might either have defended himself till he could have been taken on board; or he might have retreated along the beach to a rock on the left, in which progress his right flank would have been secured by the intrenchment; and the enemy could not have pursued him along the shore, without being exposed to such a fire from the shipping, as, in all probability, they could not have withstood.

The English line being drawn up in uneven ground, began the action with an irregular fire from right to left, which the enemy returned; but their usual fortitude and resolution seemed to forsake them on this occasion. They saw themselves in danger of being surrounded and cut in pieces; their officers dropped on every side; and all hope of retreat was now intercepted. In this cruel dilemma their spirits failed; they were seized with a panic; they faltered, they broke, and in less than five minutes after the engagement began, they fled in
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108 *The History of ENGLAND.*

the utmost confusion, pursued by the enemy, who no sooner saw them give way than they fell in among them with their bayonets fixed, and made a terrible havock. General Dury being dangerously wounded, ran into the sea, where he perished; and this was the fate of a great number, officers as well as soldiers. Many swam towards the boats and vessels, which were ordered to give them all manner of assistance; but by far the greater number were either butchered on the beach, or drowned in the water: a small body, however, instead of throwing themselves into the sea, retired to the rock on the left, where they made a stand, until they had exhausted all their ammunition, and then surrendered at discretion. The carnage was moreover increased by the shot and shells discharged from the battery which the enemy had raised on the hill: yet the slaughter would not have been so great, had not the French soldiers been exasperated by the fire from the frigates, which, through the general confusion that then prevailed, was still maintained even after the the English troops were routed: but this was no sooner silenced by a signal from the commodore, than the enemy granted quarter to the vanquished. About one thousand chosen men of the English army were killed
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and taken prisoners on this occasion; though the loss of the enemy is said to have amounted to double the number.

This affair elated the French, and dispirited the English much more than could reasonably be expected from a matter of so little consequence. It was, in fact, no more than the cutting off a rear-guard. There was often more blood shed in some of the skirmishes in Germany, which were never thought worthy of a place in the Gazettes. So far from complaining of our bad fortune, we ought rather to think ourselves extremely fortunate, that we were able to land three times on the coast of France without suffering any other or more considerable loss. The French ministry indeed had reason to magnify our defeat; and this they did in a most extravagant manner: but some such cordial was absolutely necessary to console their people, who were filled with chagrin at the utter ruin, which had seized their trade, and the disgrace and calamities, which had been brought upon their country.

After the action of St. Cas, some civilities, by message, passed between the duke d'Aiguillon and the English commanders, who were favoured with a list of the prisoners, including four sea-captains; and assured, that the wounded should receive all

possible comfort and assistance. These matters being adjusted, commodore Howe returned with the fleet to Spithead, and the soldiers were disembarked.

No further attempts were made upon the French coast during the remainder of this season. The English cruisers, however, still continued active and alert. Captain Hervey, in the ship *Monmouth*, destroyed a French ship of forty guns in the island of Malta; an exploit of which the Maltese loudly complained, as a violation of their neutrality. About twenty sail of small French vessels were driven ashore on the rocks of Bretagne, by some cruisers belonging to the fleet commanded by lord Anson, after a smart engagement with two frigates, under whose convoy they sailed.

In the month of November the *Belliqueux*, a French ship of war, mounted with sixty-four guns, having, by mistake, run up St. George's channel, and anchored in Lundy-road, captain Saumarez, of the *Antelope*, then lying in King's-road, immediately weighed, and went in quest of her, according to the advice he had received. When he appeared, the French captain heaved up his anchor, and made a shew of resistance; but soon hauled down his colours, and, without firing a shot, surrendered,

ed, with a complement of four hundred and seventeen men, to a ship of inferior force, both in number of hands and weight of metal.

By this time the English privateers swarmed to such a degree in the channel, that scarce a French vessel durst leave their harbours, and consequently there was little or no booty to be got. In this scarcity of legal prizes, some of the adventurers were tempted to commit acts of piracy, and actually plundered the ships of neutral nations. A Dutch vessel, having on board the baggage and domestics belonging to the marquis de Pignatelli, ambassador from the court of Spain to the king of Denmark, was boarded three times successively by the crews of three different privateers, who forced the hatches, rummaged the hold, broke open and rifled the trunks and boxes of the ambassador, and committed many other acts of violence. Complaints of these outrages being made to the court of London, the lords of the admiralty promised, in the Gazette, a reward of five hundred pounds, without deduction, to any person who should discover the offenders concerned in these acts of piracy. Some of them were detected accordingly, and brought to condign punishment.

112 *The History of* ENGLAND.

The Dutch had for some time carried on a very considerable traffick, not only in taking the fair advantages of their neutrality, but also in supplying the French with naval stores, and transporting the produce of the French sugar colonies to Europe, as carriers hired by the proprietors. The English government, incensed at this unfair commerce, prosecuted with such flagrant partiality for their enemies, issued orders for the cruisers to arrest all ships of neutral powers that should have French property on board; in consequence of which orders, several Dutch ships were taken, and condemned as legal prizes, both in England and Jamacia.

The subjects of the United Provinces raised a loud clamour against the English, for having thus, as they said, violated the law of nations, and the particular treaty of commerce subsisting between Great-Britain and the Republic. Remonstrances were made to the English ministry, who expostulated in their turn with the deputies of the States general; and the two nations were inflamed against each other with the most bitter animosity.

The British resident at the Hague, in a conference with the States, represented, that the king his master could not hope to see

see peace speedily restored, if neutral princes should assume a right of carrying on the trade of his enemies: that he expected, from their known justice, and the alliance by which they were so nearly connected with his subjects, they would honestly abandon this fraudulent commerce, and agree, that naval stores should be comprehended in the class of contraband commodities. He answered some articles of the complaints they had made with great candour and moderation; declared his majesty's abhorrence of the violences which had been committed upon the subjects of the United Provinces; explained the steps which had been taken by the English government to bring the offenders to justice, as well as to prevent such outrages for the future; and assured them, that his Britannic majesty had nothing more at heart than to renew, and maintain in full force, the mutual confidence and friendship by which the maritime powers of England and Holland had been so long united.

These professions of esteem and affection were not sufficient to allay the apprehensions of the Dutch merchants; and the French party, which was both numerous and powerful, employed all their artifice and address in exasperating their passions, and widen-

114 *The History of ENGLAND.*

ing the breach between the two nations. The court of Versailles did not fail to lay hold of such a favourable opportunity: while, on one hand, their ministers and emissaries in Holland exaggerated the indignities and injuries which the States had suffered from the proceedings of the English; they, on the other hand, flattered and cajoled them with little advantages in trade, and formal professions of friendship.

The spirit of the Dutch merchants at this juncture, and their sentiments with respect to England, may be learned from a memorial to the States General, subscribed by two hundred and sixty-nine traders, composed and presented with equal secrecy and circumspection. In this famous remonstrance they complained, that the violences and unjust depredations, committed by the English ships of war and privateers on the vessels and effects of them and their fellow-subjects, were not only continued, but daily multiplied; and cruelty and excoesses carried to such a height, that the petitioners were forced to implore the assistance of their High Mightinesses to protect, in the most efficacious manner, their commerce and navigation, which were the two sinews of the republic. For this necessary purpose they offered to contribute each his contingent, and to arm at their own charge;

charge; and other propositions were made for an immediate augmentation of their marine.

While this party industriously laboured to effect a rupture with England, the Princess Governante employed all her interest and address to divert them from this object, by alarming them with just apprehensions of the power of France, and exhorting them to augment their forces, so as to prepare against all attempts from that quarter. At the same time she spared no pains to compromise the differences between her husband's country and her father's kingdom; and, without doubt, her healing counsels were of great efficacy in preventing matters from coming to a very dangerous extremity.

The operations of Great-Britain during this campaign were not confined to Europe: the continent of the America, and the coast of Africa both felt the weight of her arms. The whole gum trade from Cape Blanco to the river Gambia, an extent of five hundred miles, had been engrossed by the French, who built Fort Louis within the mouth of the Senegal, extending their factories near three leagues up that river, and on the same coast had fortified the island of Goree, in which they maintained a considerable garrison.

son. The gum-senega, of which a great quantity is used by the manufacturers of England, being wholly in the hands of the enemy, the English dealers were obliged to buy it at second hand from the Dutch, who purchased it of the French, and exacted an exorbitant price for that commodity. This consideration forwarded the plan for annexing that country to the possessions of Great-Britain.

The project was first conceived by Mr. Thomas Cumming, a sensible quaker, who, as a private merchant, had made a voyage to Portenderrick, an adjoining part of the coast, and contracted a personal acquaintance with Amir the Moorish king of Legibelli*. He found this African prince extremely well disposed towards the subjects of Great-Britain, whom he publicly preferred to all other Europeans, and so enraged against the French, that he declared he should never be easy till they were extirpated from the river Senegal. At that very time he had denounced war against them, and earnestly desired that the king of England would send out an armament to reduce

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* The name the natives give to that part of South-Barbary, known to merchants and navigators by that of, The Gum-Coast, and called in maps, The Sandy Desert of Sara, and sometimes Zera.

Fort Louis and Goree, with some ships of force to protect the traders. In that case he promised to join his Britannic majesty's forces, and indulge his subjects with an exclusive commerce.

Mr. Cumming not only perceived the advantage that would accrue from such an exclusive privilege with regard to the gum, but foresaw many other important consequences of an extensive trade in a country, which, over and above the gum-senega, abounds in many valuable articles, such as gold dust, elephants teeth, hides, cotton, bees-wax, slaves, ostrich feathers, indigo, ambergris, and civet. Pleased with the prospect of an acquisition so valuable to his country, this honest quaker was equally minute and indefatigable in his inquiries, with regard to the commerce of the coast, as well as the strength and situation of the French settlements on the river Senegal; and, at his return to England, actually projected the plan of an expedition for the conquest of Fort Louis.

This was presented to the board of trade, by whom it was approved, after a severe scrutiny: but it required the patriotic zeal, and invincible perseverance of Mr. Cumming, to surmount a variety of obstacles before it was adopted by the ministry; and even

III 8 *The History of* ENGLAND.

even then it was not executed in its full extent. He was abridged of one large ship; and in lieu of six hundred land-forces to be draughted from different regiments, which he in vain demanded, no more than two hundred marines were allotted for this service.

After repeated solicitation, he at last, in the year 1757, obtained an order, that the two annual ships bound to the coast of Guiney, should be joined by a sloop, and two busses, and make an attempt upon the French settlements in the river Senegal. These ships, however, were detained by contrary winds, until the season was too far advanced for undertaking the expedition, which was, therefore, postponed. In the beginning of the present year, Mr. Cumming, being supported by the interest of a considerable merchant in the city, to whom he had imparted the plan, renewed his application to the ministry, and they determined to hazard the enterprize.

A small squadron was equipped for this expedition, under the command of captain Marsh, having on board a body of marines, commanded by major Mason, with a detachment of artillery, ten pieces of cannon, eight mortars, and a considerable quantity of warlike stores and ammunition. Cap-
tain

tain Walker was appointed engineer; and Mr. Cumming was concerned as a principal director and promoter of the expedition. This little armament sailed in the beginning of March; and in their passage touched at the island of Teneriff, where, while the ships supplied themselves with wine and water, Mr. Cumming proceeded in the Swan sloop to Portenderrick, being charged with a letter of credence to his old friend the king of that country, who had favoured him in his last visit with an exclusive trade on that coast, by a formal charter, written in the Arabic language; which charter is still in his possession.

This prince was now up the country engaged in a war with his neighbours, called the Diable-Moors*; and the queen-dowager, who remained at Portenderrick, acquainted Mr. Cumming, that she could not at present spare any troops to join the English in their expedition against Senegal: but she assured him, that should the French be extirpated, she and her subjects would go thither and settle. In the mean time

* This is the name by which the subjects of Legibelli distinguish those of Brackna, who inhabit the country farther up the river Senegal, and were in constant alliance with the French.

120 *The History of ENGLAND:*

one of the chiefs, called prince Amir, dispatched a messenger to the king with advice of their arrival and design. He declared, that he would, with all possible diligence, assemble three hundred warriors to join the English troops; and that, in his opinion, the king would reinforce them with a detachment from his army.

By this time captain Marsh, with the rest of the armament, had arrived at Portenderrick, and apprehending that the enemy might receive intimation of his design, resolved to proceed on the expedition without waiting for the promised auxiliaries. On the twenty-second day of April he weighed anchor; and next day at four o'clock, discovered the French flag flying upon Fort Louis, situated in the midst of a pretty considerable town, which exhibited a very agreeable appearance. The commodore having made prize of a Dutch ship richly laden with gum, which lay without the bar, came to anchor in Senegal-road, at the mouth of the river; and here he observed several armed sloops, which the enemy had posted to defend the passage of the bar, which is extremely dangerous. All the boats were employed in conveying the stores into the small craft, while three of the sloops continued exchanging shot over a narrow

narrow tongue of land with the vessels of the enemy, consisting of one brig and six armed sloops, mounted with great guns and swivels.

At length the channel being discovered, and the wind, which generally blows down the river, veering about, captain Millar, of the London buss, seized that opportunity; and passing the bar with a full sail, cast anchor on the inside, where he lay till night, exposed to the whole fire of the enemy. Next day he was joined by the other small vessels, and a regular engagement ensued. This was warmly maintained on both sides, until the buxses and one dogger running aground, immediately bulged, and were filled with water. Then the troops they contained took to their boats, and, with some difficulty, reached the shore, where they drew up in a body, and were soon joined by their companions from the other vessels; so that now the whole amounted to three hundred and ninety marines, exclusive of the detachment of artillery.

As they laid their account with being attacked by the natives, who appeared on the shore at some distance, seemingly determined to oppose the descent, they immediately formed an intrenchment, and began to disembark the stores, great part of which

122 *The History of ENGLAND.*

lay under water. While they were employed in raising this occasional defence, the negroes came in great numbers, and submitted; and on the succeeding day they were joined by three hundred seamen, who passed the bar in sloops, with their ensigns and colours flying.

They were proceeding in their operations with great spirit and activity, when two French deputies arrived at the intrenchment, with proposals for a capitulation from the governor of Fort Louis. After some hesitation, captain Marsh and major Mafon agreed, that all the white people belonging to the French company at Senegal, should be safely conducted to France in an English vessel, without being deprived of their private effects, provided all the merchandize, and uncoined treasure, should be delivered up to the victors; and that all the forts, store-houses, vessels, arms, provisions, and every article belonging to the company in that river, should be put into the hands of the English immediately after the capitulation could be signed: that the free natives living at Fort Louis, should remain in quiet possession of their effects, and in the free exercise of their religion: and that all negroes, mulattoes, and others, who could prove themselves free, should have it in their

their option either to remain in the place, or remove to any other part of the country.

The captains Campbell and Walker were immediately sent up the river with a flag of truce, to see the articles signed and executed; but the current of the stream was so strong, that they did not arrive at the fort till three in the morning. As soon as the day broke they hoisted their flag, and rowed up towards a battery on the point of the island, where they lay upon their oars very near a full hour, beating the chamade; but no notice was taken of their arrival. Suspecting the cause of this strange conduct, they retired down the river to their intrenchment, where they learned, that the negroes on the island had risen in arms, and blocked up the French in Fort Louis, resolving to defend the place to the last extremity, unless they should be included in the capitulation. This circumstance was signified in a second letter from the governor, who likewise acquainted the English commander, that unless the French director-general should be allowed to remain with the natives as a surety for the performance of that article of the capitulation in which they were comprehended, they would suffer themselves to be cut in pieces rather than submit.

This request being granted, the English forces began their march to Fort Louis, attended by a number of long-boats, in which the artillery and stores had been embarked. The French seeing them, immediately struck their colours; and major Mason took possession of the castle, where he found ninety-two pieces of cannon, with treasure and merchandize to a considerable value. The corporation and burghers of the town of Senegal submitted, and swore allegiance to his Britannic majesty: the neighbouring princes, accompanied by numerous retinues, visited the commander, and concluded treaties with the English nation; and the king of Portenderrick, or Legibelli, sent an ambassador from his camp to major Mason, with compliments of congratulation, and assurances of friendship.

The number of free independent Negroes and Mulattoes settled at Senegal amounted to three thousand; and many of these enjoyed slaves and possessions of their own. The two French factories of Podore and Galam, the latter situated nine hundred miles farther up the river, were included in the capitulation; so that Great-Britain, almost without striking a blow, found herself in possession of a settlement, from which
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with proper care, very considerable advantages may be derived.

This signal acquisition was, in a great measure, owing to the sagacity, zeal, and indefatigable efforts of Mr. Cumming, who first projected the plan, afterwards solicited the armament, and finally superintended the execution of it in person; a service, which must ever recommend him to the love and esteem of his fellow-subjects, and ought certainly to procure him a handsome gratuity from his country.

Fort Louis being furnished with an English garrison, and some armed vessels left to guard the passage of the bar, at the mouth of the river, the great ships set sail on an expedition, to the island of Goree, which lies at the distance of thirty leagues from Sengal. There the French company had considerable magazines and warehouses, and lodged the negro-slaves until they could be shipped for the West-Indies. If the additional force which Mr. Cumming proposed for the conquest of this island had been added to the armament, in all probability, the island would have been reduced; and, in that case, the nation would have saved the considerable expence of a subsequent expedition against it, under the conduct of commodore Keppel. At present the ships,

126 *The History of ENGLAND.*

by which Goree was attacked, were found unequal to the attempt, and it miscarried accordingly; though the miscarriage was attended with little or no damage to the assailants.

However important the conquest of Senegal, it was of little consequence in comparison of the scenes, which were acted in America, where, exclusive of the fleet and marines, the government had assembled about fifty thousand men, including two and twenty thousand regular troops. The earl of Loudon having returned to England, the chief command in America devolved to major-general Abercrombie; but as the objects of operation were various, the forces were divided into three separate bodies, under as many different commanders. About twelve thousand were destined to undertake the siege of Louisbourg, on the island of Cape Breton. The general himself reserved near sixteen thousand for the reduction of Crown Point, a fort situated on the lake Champlain: eight thousand, under the conduct of brigadier-general Forbes, were allotted for the conquest of Fort du Quesne, which stood a great way to the southward, near the river Ohio; and a considerable garrison was left at Annapolis in Nova Scotia.

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The reduction of Louisbourg and the island of Cape Breton, being an object of immediate consideration, was undertaken with all possible dispatch. Major-general Amherst being joined by admiral Boscawen, with the fleet and forces from England, the whole armament, consisting of one hundred and fifty-seven sail, took their departure from the harbour of Halifax, in Nova Scotia, on the twenty-eighth of May; and on the second day of June part of the transports arrived in the bay of Gabarus, about seven miles to the westward of Louisbourg. The garrison of this place, commanded by the chevalier Drucour, consisted of two thousand five hundred regular troops, three hundred militia, formed of the burghers, and towards the end of the siege they were joined by three hundred and fifty Canadians, including threescore Indians.

The harbour was defended by six ships of the line; the Prudent and Entreprenant, of seventy four guns each; the Capricieux, Celebre, and Bienfaisant, of sixty-four; and the Apollo, of fifty. Besides these, there were five frigates, the Chevre, Biche, Fidelle, Diana, and Eccho, three of which the enemy had sunk across the harbour's mouth, in order to render it inaccessible to the English shipping. The fortifications were in
bad

bad repair, many parts of them crumbling down the covered way. several bastions exposed in such a manner as to be enfiladed by the besiegers, and no part of the town secure from the effects of cannonading and bombardment. The governor had taken all the precautions in his power to prevent a debarkation, by establishing a chain of posts, that extended two leagues and a half along the most accessible parts of the beach: intrenchments were thrown up, and batteries erected; but there were some intermediate places which could not be properly secured, and in one of these the English effected a landing.

The disposition being made for this purpose, a detachment, in several sloops, under convoy, passed by the mouth of the harbour towards Lorembec, in order to draw the enemy's attention that way, while the landing should be really attempted on the other side of the town. On the eighth day of June, the troops being distributed in the boats before day-break, in three divisions, several sloops and frigates, that were stationed along shore in the bay of Gabarus, began to scour the beach with their shot; and after the fire had continued about a quarter of an hour, the boats, containing the division on the left, were rowed towards
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the shore, under the command of brigadier-general Wolfe, an accomplished officer, who afterwards exhibited very extraordinary proofs of military genius.

At the same time the other two divisions, on the right and in the centre, commanded by the brigadiers Whitmore and Laurence, made a shew of landing, in order to divide and distract the enemy. Notwithstanding an impetuous surf, by which many boats were overset, and a very severe fire of cannon and musketry from the enemy's batteries, which did considerable execution, brigadier Wolfe pursued his point with equal courage and deliberation. The soldiers leaped into the water with the most eager alacrity, and, gaining the shore, attacked the enemy in such a furious manner, that in a few minutes they drove them from their works and batteries, and obliged them to fly with the utmost precipitation. The other divisions landed also; but not without an obstinate opposition: and the stores, with the artillery, being brought on shore, the town of Louisbourg was formally invested.

The difficulty of landing stores and implements in boisterous weather, and the nature of the ground, which, being marshy, was unfit for the conveyance of heavy cannon, interrupted the operations of the siege; and

130 *The History of* ENGLAND.

and Mr. Amherst made his approaches with great circumspection, securing his camp with redoubts and epaulements from any attacks of the Canadians, of which he apprehended there was a considerable body behind him on the island, as well as from the fire of the French shipping in the harbour, which would otherwise have galled him extremely in his advances.

The governor of Louisbourg having demolished the grand battery, which was detached from the body of the place, and withdrawn his out-posts, prepared for making a vigorous defence. A very severe fire, well directed, was maintained against the besiegers and their work, from the town, the island battery, and the ships in the harbour; and divers sallies were made, though without much effect. In the mean time brigadier Wolfe, with a strong detachment, had marched round the north-east part of the harbour, and taken possession of the Lighthouse-point, where he erected several batteries against the ships and the island fortification, which last was soon silenced.

On the nineteenth day of June the *Eccho*, a French frigate, was taken by the English cruisers, after having escaped from the harbour. From the officers on board of this ship the admiral learned that the *Bizarre*,
ano-

another frigate, had sailed from thence on the day of the disembarkation; and the Comete had likewise followed her example. Besides the regular approaches to the town, conducted by the engineers under the immediate command and inspection of general Amherst, divers batteries were raised by the detached corps under brigadier Wolfe, who exerted himself with surprising activity, and grievously annoyed the enemy, both in the town and the shipping.

On the twenty-first day of July the three great ships, the *Entreprenant*, *Capricieux*, and *Celebre*, were set on fire by the bomb-shells, and reduced to ashes; so that none remained but the *Prudent* and *Bienfaisant*, which the admiral undertook to destroy. For this purpose, in the night between the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth days of the month, the boats of the squadron were in two divisions detached into the harbour, under the command of two young captains, *Laforey* and *Balfour*. They accordingly penetrated, in the dark, through a terrible fire of cannon and musquetry, and boarded the enemy sword in hand. The *Prudent*, being aground, was set on fire, and destroyed; but the *Bienfaisant* was towed out of the harbour in triumph.

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In the prosecution of the siege the admiral and general assisted each other with remarkable harmony; the former cheerfully furnishing the latter with cannon, and other implements, with detachments of marines to secure the posts on shore, and with parties of seamen to act as pioneers, and concur in working the guns and mortars. The fire of the town was managed with equal spirit and dexterity, and kept up with great perseverance; until, at length, their shipping being all taken and destroyed, the caserns ruined in the two principal bastions, forty out of fifty-two pieces of cannon dismounted, broke, or rendered unserviceable, and several practicable breaches effected, the governor, in a letter to Mr. Amherst, proposed a capitulation on the same terms, that were granted to the English at Portmahon.

In answer to this proposal he was told, that he and his garrison must surrender themselves prisoners of war, otherwise he might next morning expect a general assault by the shipping under admiral Boscawen. The chevalier Drucour, piqued at the severity of these conditions, replied, that, rather than comply with them, he would stand an assault; but the commissary-general, and intendant of the colony, presented a petition from the traders and inhabitants of the place,

place, in consequence of which he submitted. On the twenty-seventh day of July three companies of grenadiers, commanded by major Farquhar, took possession of the western gate; and brigadier Whitmore was sent into the town, to see the garrison lay down their arms and deliver up their colours on the esplanade, and to post the necessary guards on the stores, magazines, and ramparts.

Thus, with the inconsiderable loss of about four hundred men killed or wounded, the English obtained possession of the important island of Cape Breton, and the strong town of Louisbourg, in which the victors found two hundred and twenty-one pieces of cannon, with eighteen mortars, and a large quantity of stores and ammunition. The merchants and inhabitants were conveyed to France in English bottoms; but the garrison, together with the sea-officers, marines, and mariners, amounting in all to five thousand six hundred and thirty-seven prisoners, were transported to England.

The loss of Louisbourg gave a fatal blow to the French interest in America, and facilitated the reduction of their other settlements in that part of the world. An account of the affair was immediately brought

to England, in a vessel dispatched for that purpose, with captain Amherst, brother to the commander; who was also intrusted with eleven pair of colours taken at the siege. These were, by his majesty's order, carried in great parade, escorted by detachments of horse and foot guards, with kettle-drums and trumpets, from the palace of Kensington to St. Paul's cathedral, where they were deposited as trophies of victory under a discharge of cannon, and other suitable expressions of triumph and exultation. Nor were the rejoicings for this conquest confined to London: addresses of congratulation were presented to his majesty by almost every town and corporation in the kingdom.

After the reduction of Cape Breton, some ships were detached with a body of troops, under the command of lieutenant-colonel lord Rollo, to take possession of the island of St. John, which also lies in the gulph of St. Laurence, and, by its fertility in corn and cattle, had, since the beginning of the war, supplied Quebec with considerable quantities of provision. It was likewise the asylum to which the French neutrals of Annapolis fled for shelter, from the English government; and the retreat from whence they and the Indians used to make their sudden

sudden incursions into Nova Scotia, where they committed the most inhuman barbarities on the defenceless subjects of Great-Britain.

The number of inhabitants amounted to four thousand one hundred, who submitted, and brought in their arms : then lord Rollo took possession of the governor's quarters, where he found several scalps of Englishmen, whom the savages had butchered, in consequence of the encouragement they received from their French patrons and allies, who gratified them with a certain sum for every scalp they produced. The island was stocked with above ten thousand head of black cattle, and some of the farmers raised each twelve hundred bushels of corn annually for the market of Quebec.

The joy and satisfaction arising from the conquest of Louisbourg and St. John, was not a little damped by the disaster which happened to the main body of the British forces in America, under the immediate direction of general Abercrombie, who, as we have already remarked, had proposed the reduction of the French forts on the lakes George and Champlain, as the chief objects of his operation ; with a view to protect the frontier of the British colonies, and

136 *The History of* ENGLAND.

open a passage for the future conquest of Canada.

In the beginning of July his forces, amounting to near seven thousand regular troops, and ten thousand provincials, embarked on the Lake George, in the neighbourhood of Lake Champlain, on board of nine hundred batteaus, and one hundred and thirty five whale-boats, with provision, artillery, and ammunition; several pieces of cannon being mounted on rafts to cover the purposed landing, which was next day effected without opposition. The general's design was to attack Ticonderoga, a fort situated on a tongue of land, extending between Lake George and a narrow gut that communicates with the Lake Champlain. This fortification was, on three sides, encompassed with water, and in front nature had secured it with a morass.

The English troops being landed, were immediately marshalled in three columns, and began their march to the enemy's advanced guard, consisting of one battalion, encamped behind a breast-work of logs, which they now abandoned with precipitation, after having set it on fire, and burned their tents and implements. The British forces prosecuted their march in the same order; but the route lying through a thick wood

wood that did not admit of any regular progression, or passage, and the guides proving extremely ignorant, the troops were bewildered, and the columns broken by falling in one upon another.

Lord Howe being advanced at the head of the right centre column, encountered a French detachment, who had likewise lost their way in their retreat from the advanced guard, and a warm skirmish ensued. The dispute was maintained, for some time, with great obstinacy, on both sides; nor did the enemy give way, until they had lost about three hundred killed, and one hundred and forty-eight taken prisoners, including five officers. This petty advantage, however, was dearly purchased with the loss of lord Howe, who fell in the beginning of the action, universally lamented as a young nobleman of the most promising talents, who had distinguished himself in a peculiar manner by his courage, activity, and rigid observation of military discipline, and had gained the esteem and affection of the soldiery by his generosity, humanity, and engaging address.

The general finding the troops were greatly exhausted from want of proper rest and refreshment, thought it most adviseable to march back to the landing-place, where

they accordingly arrived about eight in the morning. Then he detached lieutenant-colonel Bradstreet, with one regular regiment, six companies of the Royal Americans, the batteau-men, and a body of rangers, to take possession of a saw-mill in the neighbourhood of Ticonderoga, which the enemy had deserted.

This post being secured, the general advanced again towards Ticonderoga, where he learned from the prisoners the enemy had collected eight battalions, with a body of Canadians and Indians, amounting in all to six thousand. These, they said, being encamped before the fort, were employed in forming a strong intrenchment, where they intended to wait for a reinforcement of three thousand men, which had been detached under the command of M. de Levi, to make a diversion on the side of the Mohawk river; but upon the news of Mr. Abercrombie's approach, were now recalled for the defence of Ticonderoga.

This information determined the English general to strike, if possible, some decisive stroke before the junction could be effected. He, therefore, early next morning detached his engineer across the river on the opposite side of the fort, to take a view of the enemy's intrenchments; and this officer re-

reported, that the works being still unfinished, might be attempted with a good prospect of success. A disposition was made accordingly for the attack; and after proper guards had been left at the saw mill and the landing place, the whole army was put in motion,

They advanced with great intrepidity towards the intrenchment, which, however, they found impregnable. The breastwork was no less than eight feet high, and the ground before it covered with felled trees, with their boughs pointing outwards, projecting in such a manner as to render the intrenchment almost inaccessible. Notwithstanding these seemingly insuperable difficulties, the British troops marched up to the assault with an undaunted resolution, and sustained a terrible fire from the enemy's musquetry and cannon. They endeavoured to cut their way, sword in hand, through these embarrassments; and some of them even mounted the parapet; but the enemy were so well covered, that they could, deliberately, take aim without the least danger to themselves: the carnage was therefore great, and the troops began to fall into confusion, after several repeated attacks, which lasted above four hours, under the most disadvantageous circumstances.

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The general, by this time, plainly perceived, that no hope of success remained; and, in order to prevent a total defeat, resolved to retreat with his army, which retired unmolested to their former camp, with the loss of about eighteen hundred men killed or wounded, including a great number of officers. Every corps of regular troops exerted themselves on this unfortunate occasion, with remarkable bravery; but the greatest loss was sustained by lord John Murray's Highland regiment, of which above one half of the private men, and twenty-five officers, were either slain upon the spot, or desperately wounded,

Mr. Abercrombie, unwilling to stay in the neighbourhood of the enemy, with forces which had received such a severe check, retired to his batteaus, and re-embarking his troops, returned to the camp at Lake George, from whence he had taken his departure. The public were very free in their censures upon the conduct of this general. He was commended, indeed, for drawing off his men from a desperate attack, in which they were exposed to the fire of an enemy, who lay secure in impregnable intrenchments; but his ordering his troops to storm such a camp without artillery, when he had a sufficient train for that service; his

his never advancing in person to the field of battle, when his presence was so indispensably necessary, but remaining at the Saw-mills, two miles from the scene of action; his flying with an army of fourteen thousand men, from the neighbourhood of an enemy, who never amounted to above three thousand; and to whom he would have been superior, even though they had been joined by the expected reinforcements: in these and many other respects, he is said to have acted in a manner very unbecoming the character of a good general.

He might, it was affirmed, have remained on the spot, in order to execute some other enterprize when he should be reinforced in his turn; for general Amherst no sooner heard of his disaster, than he returned with the troops from Cape Breton to New England, after having left a strong garrison in Louisbourg. At the head of six regiments he began his march to Albany, about the middle of September, in order to join the forces on the lake, that they might undertake some other service before the season should be exhausted.

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ficer had formed against Cadaraqui, or Fort Frontenac, situated on the north side of the river St. Laurence, just where it takes its rise from the Lake Ontario. To the side of this lake he advanced with his detachment, and embarking in some sloops and batteaus, provided for the purpose, landed within a mile of Fort Frontenac, the garrison of which, consisting of one hundred and ten men, with a few Indians, immediately surrendered themselves prisoners of war. In this fortress, which commanded the mouth of the river St. Laurence, and served as a magazine to the more southern castles, Mr. Bradstreet found sixty pieces of cannon, sixteen small mortars, with an immense quantity of merchandize and provision, deposited for the use of the French forces detached against brigadier Forbes, their western garrisons, and Indian allies, as well as for the subsistence of the corps commanded by Mr. de Levi, on his enterprise against the Mohawk river.

This fort he not only reduced without bloodshed, but also made himself master of all the enemy's shipping on the lake, amounting to nine armed vessels, some of which carried eighteen guns. Two of these Mr. Bradstreet conveyed to Oswego, whither he returned with his troops, after he had

had destroyed Fort Frontenac, with all the artillery, stores, provision, and merchandize, which it contained. By this loss the French troops to the southward were exposed to the hazard of starving; but it is not easy to conceive the general's reason for giving orders to abandon and destroy a fort, which, if properly strengthened and sustained, might have rendered the English masters of the Lake Ontario, and grievously incummoded the enemy, both in their commerce and expeditions to the westward.

Mean while, the expedition against Fort du Quesne was prosecuted with great activity by brigadier Forbes, who, with his little army, began his march on the thirtieth day of June from Philadelphia for the river Ohio, a prodigious tract of country very little known, destitute of military roads, incumbered with mountains, morasses, and woods, that were almost impassable. It was not without incredible difficulty, that he procured provisions and carriages for this expedition, formed new roads, extended scouting parties, secured camps, and surmounted many other obstructions in the course of his tedious march, during which he was also harrassed by small detachments of the enemy's Indians.

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Having advanced with the main body as far as Ray's-Town, at the distance of ninety miles from Fort du Quesne, and sent before him colonel Bouquet, with two thousand men, about fifty miles farther, to a place called Lyal Henning, this officer detached major Grant, at the head of eight hundred men, to reconnoitre the fort and its out-works. The enemy observing his approach, sent a body of troops against him, sufficient to surround his whole detachment: a very warm action began, the English maintained it with their usual courage for three hours against cruel odds; but at length, being overpowered, by numbers, they were obliged to give way, and retired in disorder to Lyal-Henning, with the loss of about three hundred men killed or taken, including major Grant, who was carried prisoner to Fort du Quesne, and nineteen officers.

Notwithstanding this severe check, brigadier Forbes advanced with the army, determined to prosecute his operations with the utmost vigour; but the enemy dreading the prospect of a siege, dismantled and abandoned the fort, and retired down the river Ohio, to their settlements on the Mississippi. They deserted the fort on the twenty-fourth day of November, and next day it

it was occupied by the British forces. As for the Indians of this country, they seemed heartily to renounce their connections with France, and submitted to the dominion of his Britannic majesty.

Brigadier Forbes having repaired the fort, changed its name from Du Quesne to Pittsburg, furnished it with a garrison of Provincials, and concluded treaties of friendship and alliance with the Indian tribes. Then he marched back to Philadelphia, and in his return built a blockhouse, near Lyal-Henning, for the protection of Pennsylvania; but he himself did not long survive these transactions: his constitution having been broken by the incredible fatigues he had undergone, he died soon after, universally regretted.

Thus have we given a particular account of all the remarkable events, that happened during this campaign, on the continent of America: the reader will be convinced, that notwithstanding the defeat at Ticonderoga, and the disaster of the advanced party in the neighbourhood of Fort du Quesne, the arms of Great-Britain acquired many important advantages; and, indeed, paved the way for the reduction of Quebec, and conquest of all Canada. In the mean time, the admirals Boscawen and Hardy, having

left a considerable squadron at Halifax in Nova Scotia, returned with four ships of the line to England, where they arrived in the beginning of November, after having given chase to six large French ships, which they discovered to the westward of Scilly, but could not overtake or bring to an engagement.

The English settlements on the coast of Africa being deemed insecure whilst France kept possession of the island of Goree, the ministry of Great-Britain resolved to crown the campaign in this part of the world with the reduction of that fortress. For this purpose commodore Keppel, brother to the earl of Albemarle, was vested with the command of a squadron, consisting of four ships of the line, several frigates, two bomb ketches, and some transports, having on board seven hundred regular troops, commanded by colonel Worge, and embarked in the harbour of Corke in Ireland, from whence this whole armament took their departure on the eleventh day of November.

After a difficult and dangerous passage, in which they touched at the Isle of Teneriffe, they arrived at Goree in the latter end of December, and the commodore made a disposition for attacking this island, which
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was remarkably strong by nature, but very indifferently fortified. Goree is a small barren island, extending about three quarters of a mile in length, of a triangular form; and on the south west side rising into a rocky hill, on which the small fort of St. Michael is situated. There is another, still more inconsiderable, called St. Francis, towards the other extremity of the island; and several batteries were raised around its circumference mounted with about one hundred pieces of cannon and four mortars. The French governor, Mr. de St. Jean, had great plenty of ammunition, and his garrison amounted to about three hundred men, exclusive of as many negro inhabitants.

The flat-bottomed boats, for landing the troops, being hoisted out, and ranged along-side of the different transports, the commodore stationed his ships on the west side of the island, and the engagement began with a shell from one of the ketches. This was a signal for the great ships, which poured in their broadsides without intermission, and the fire was returned with equal vivacity from all the batteries of the island. In the course of the action the cannonading from the ships became so severe and terrible, that the French garrison fled from their

quarters, in spite of all the efforts of the governor, who endeavoured to keep them to their duty; but was obliged to strike his colours, and surrender at discretion, after a short but warm dispute, in which the loss of the British forces hardly amounted to one hundred men killed and wounded.

The success of the day was the more extraordinary as the French garrison had not lost a man, except one negro, killed by the bursting of a bomb-shell, and the number of their wounded was very inconsiderable. The enemy's colours being struck, as a signal of submission, the commodore sent a detachment of marines on shore, who disarmed the garrison, and hoisted the British flag upon the castle of St. Michael. In the mean time the governor and the rest of the prisoners were distributed among the shipping. Thus the important island of Goree fell into the hands of the English, together with two trading vessels, that happened to be at anchor in the road; and stores, money, and merchandize, to the value of twenty thousand pounds.

Part of the troops being left in garrison at Goree, under the command of major Newton, together with three sloops for his service; the squadron being watered and
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refreshed from the continent, that part of which is governed by one of the Jalof kings; and the prisoners, with their baggage, being dispatched in three cartel-ships to France; the commodore set sail for Senegal, and reinforced Fort Louis with the rest of the troops, under colonel Worge, who was about this time favoured with a visit by the king of Legibelli. Great pains were taken by the colonel to secure the friendship of this potentate, though he could not comply with all his requests, inasmuch as he desired him to espouse his cause against some of the neighbouring nations; a favour, which he could, by no means, grant with any regard to the interest of his country.

Commodore Keppel having reduced Goree, and reinforced the garrison of Senegal, returned to England, where all his ships arrived, after a very tempestuous voyage, in which the squadron had been dispersed.

This expedition, however successful in the main, was attended with one misfortune; namely, the loss of the Litchfield ship of war, commanded by captain Barton, which, together with one transport and a bomb-tender, was wrecked on the coast of Barbary, about nine leagues to the northward of Saffy, in the dominions of Mo-

150 *The History of ENGLAND.*

rocco. One hundred and thirty men, including several officers, perished on this occasion: but the captain and the rest of the company, to the number of two hundred and twenty, made shift to gain the shore, where they ran the risque of starving, and were cruelly used by the natives, although a treaty of peace at that time subsisted between Great Britain and Morocco; nay, they were even enslaved by the emperor, who detained them in captivity until they were ransomed by the British government.

The incidents of the war that happened in the West Indies, during these transactions, were neither numerous nor important. Nothing of consequence was atchieved in the neighbourhood of Jamaica, where admiral Cotes commanded a small squadron, from which he detached cruisers occasionally for the protection of the British commerce; and at Antigua the trade was effectually secured by the vigilance of captain Tyrrel, an officer of distinguished merit.

In the month of March this gentleman, with his own ship the Buckingham, and the Cambridge, another of the line, destroyed a fort on the island of Martinique, and sunk four privateers riding under its protection: but his valour was much more

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eminently displayed in a subsequent engagement, which happened in the month of November. Being detached on a cruise in his own ship the Buckingham by commodore Moore, who commanded at the Leeward Islands, he fell in with the Wezel sloop, commanded by captain Boles, between the islands of Montserrat and Guadalupe, and immediately discovered a fleet of nineteen sail, under convoy of a French ship of war carrying seventy-four cannon, and two large frigates.

Captain Tyrrel immediately gave chase with all the sail he could carry; and the Weazle, running close to the enemy, received a whole broadside from the large ship, which, however, she sustained without much damage: nevertheless Mr. Tyrrel ordered her commander to keep aloof, as he could not be supposed able to bear the shock of large metal, and he himself prepared for the engagement. The enemy's large ship, the Florissant, though of much greater force than the Buckingham, instead of waiting her approach, made a running fight with her stern chase, while the two frigates harrassed him in his course, sometimes raking him fore and aft, and sometimes lying on his quarter.

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152 *The History of* ENGLAND.

At length he came along side of the *Florissant*, within pistol shot, and poured in a whole broadside, which did considerable execution. The salutation was returned with equal vivacity, and a furious engagement ensued. Captain Tyrrel was wounded in the face, and lost three fingers of his right hand; so that, being intirely disabled, he was obliged to transfer the command of the ship to his first lieutenant, Mr. Marshall, who continued the battle with great gallantry until he lost his life: then the charge devolved to the second lieutenant, who acquitted himself with equal bravery, and sustained a desperate fight against the three ships of the enemy.

The officers and crew of the *Buckingham* exerted themselves with equal vigour and deliberation; and captain Troy, who commanded a detachment of marines on the poop, plied his small arms so effectually, as to drive the French from their quarters. At length confusion, terror, and uproar prevailing on board the *Florissant*, her firing ceased, and her colours were hauled down about the twilight: but her commander, observing that the *Buckingham* was too much damaged in her rigging to pursue with any hope of success, ordered all his sails to be set, and escaped in the dark with
his

his two consort. Nothing but this circumstance could have prevented a British ship of sixty-five guns, containing but four hundred and seventy-two men, from taking a French ship of the line, mounted with seventy-four pieces of cannon, provided with seven hundred men, and assisted by two large frigates, one of thirty-eight, and the other of twenty-eight guns.

The loss of the *Buckingham*, in this action, did not exceed fifty men in killed and wounded; whereas the number of the slain on board the *Florissant* did not fall short of one hundred and eighty, and that of her wounded is said to have amounted to above three hundred. She was so disabled in her hull, that she could hardly be kept above water, until she reached Martinique, where she was repaired; and the largest frigate, together with the loss of forty men, sustained such damage as to be for some time quite unfit for service.

The military transactions in the East Indies were chequered with a variety of fortune; but, on the whole, the designs of the enemy were intirely disappointed. The French king had sent a considerable reinforcement to that part of the world, under the command of general Lally, an officer of Irish extraction, together with such a number

154 *The History of* ENGLAND.

ber of ships as rendered the squadron of Mr. d'Apché superior to that of admiral Pocock, who had succeeded admiral Watson, lately deceased, in the command of the English fleet stationed on the coast of Comandul, which, in the beginning of this year, was joined by several ships from England, under the direction of commodore Stevens.

Immediately after this junction, which was effected in the road of Madras on the twenty-fourth day of March, admiral Pocock, who had already distinguished himself by his courage, vigilance, and conduct, proceeded to windward, with a view to intercept the French squadron, of which he had received intelligence. In two days he discovered in the road of Fort St. David the enemy's fleet, consisting of nine ships, which immediately stood out to sea, and formed the line of battle a-head. The admiral took the same precaution, and, bearing down upon Mr. d'Apché, the engagement began about three in the afternoon.

The French commodore having maintained a warm fight for about two hours, bore away with his whole fleet; and being reinforced by two ships, formed a line of battle again to leeward. Admiral Pocock's own ship, and some others, being greatly dis-

disabled in their masts and rigging, two of his captains having misbehaved in the action, and night coming on, he did not think proper to pursue them with all the sail he could carry; nevertheless he followed them at a proper distance, standing to the south-west, in order to preserve the weather-gage, in case he should have an opportunity to renew the action in the morning.

In this expectation, however, he was disappointed: the enemy shewed no lights, nor made any signals that could be observed; and in the morning they had intirely disappeared. Mr. Pocock, on the supposition that they had weathered him in the night, endeavoured to work up after them to windward; but finding he lost ground considerably, he dropped anchor about three leagues to the northward of Sadras, and received intelligence from the chief of that settlement, that one of the largest French ships, having been greatly damaged in the engagement, was run ashore to the southward of Alemparve, where their whole Squadron lay at anchor.

Such was the issue of the first action between the English and French Squadrons in the East-Indies, which, over and above the loss of a capital ship, is said to have cost the

156 *The History of ENGLAND.*

the enemy about five hundred men, whereas the British admiral did not lose one fifth part of that number. Being dissatisfied with the behaviour of three of his captains, he no sooner returned to Madras, than he appointed a court-martial to enquire into their conduct; in consequence of which two of them were dismissed from that service, and the third was sentenced to lose one year's rank as a post captain.

In the mean time Mr. Lally had landed his troops at Pondicherry, and taking the field immediately laid siege to the fort of St. David, while the French squadron blocked it up by sea. Two English ships being at anchor in the road when the enemy arrived, their captains seeing no possibility of escaping, ran them on shore, set them on fire, and retired with their men into the fortress, which, however, was in a few days surrendered.

Admiral Pocock having, to the best of his power, refitted his shattered ships, set sail again on the tenth of May, in order to attempt the relief of Fort St. David's; but, notwithstanding his utmost endeavours, he could not reach it in time to be of any service. On the thirtieth day of the month he arrived in the neighbourhood of Pondicherry, from whence the French squadron stood away

away early next morning; nor was it in his power, by any means, to overtake them, though he made all possible efforts for that purpose. Then receiving intelligence, that Fort St. David's was surrendered to the enemy, he sailed back again to Madras, in order to refresh his squadron.

On the twenty-fifth day of July, he set sail a third time in quest of Mr. d'Apché, and, in two days, discovered his squadron, consisting of eight ships of the line and a frigate, at anchor in the road of Pondicherry. They no sooner perceived him approaching, than they stood out to sea as before, and he continued to chace in hope of bringing them to an engagement; but all his endeavours proved ineffectual till the third day of August, when having gained the weather-gage, he bore down upon them in order of battle.

The engagement began with great fury on both sides; but in little more than ten minutes Mr. d'Apché set his foresail and bore away, his whole squadron following his example, and maintaining a running fight in a very irregular line. The British admiral then displayed the signal for a general chace, which the enemy observing, thought proper to cut away their boats and croud with all the sail they could carry.

158 *The History of* ENGLAND.

They escaped by favour of the night into the road of Pondicherry, and Mr. Pocock anchored with his Squadron off Carical, a French settlement, having thus obtained an undisputed victory, with the loss of thirty men killed, and one hundred and sixteen wounded, including commodore Stevens and captain Martin, though their wounds were not dangerous.

The number of killed and wounded on board of the French Squadron, amounted, according to report, to five hundred and forty; and their ships were so much shattered, that, in the beginning of September, their commodore sailed for the islands of Bourbon, in the same latitude with Madagascar, in order to refit; thus leaving the dominion and sovereignty of the Indian seas to the English admiral, whose fleet, from the beginning of this campaign, had been much inferior to the French Squadron in number of ships and men, as well as in weight of metal.

Mr. Lally, having made himself master of Cudalore and Fort St. David's, resolved to extort a sum of money from the king of Tanjour, on pretence that, in the last war, he had given an obligation to the French governor, for a certain sum which had never been payed. Accordingly, he advanced

ced with a body of three thousand men into the dominions of Tanjour, and demanded seventy-two lack of rupees. This extravagant demand being rejected, he plundered Nagare, a trading town on the sea-coast, and afterwards laid siege to the capital, but after he had prosecuted his operations until a breach was made in the walls, his provisions and ammunition beginning to fail, several vigorous sallies being made by the forces of the king of Tanjour, and the place well defended by European gunners, sent from the English garrison at Trichenopoli, he found himself obliged to abandon the enterprize, and retreat in a hurry, with the loss of his artillery.

He arrived at Carical about the middle of August, and from thence returned to Pondicherry towards the latter end of September. He afterwards quartered his troops in the province of Arcot, took possession of the city without the least resistance, and began to make preparations for the siege of Madras, which shall be recorded among the transactions of the ensuing year. In the mean time, the land forces belonging to the East India company were so much out-numbered by the reinforcements which arrived with Mr. Lally, that they could not

pretend to make head against the enemy, but were obliged to remain on the defensive, and provide as well as they could for the security of Fort St. George, and the other settlements in that part of India.

Having thus related, with as much precision as is consistent with perspicuity, the events of the war in America, Africa, and Asia, we now return to Europe, the chief scene of action.

When the Russian general, Apraxin, retreated from Pomerania, mareschal Lehwald, who commanded the Prussians in that country, was left at liberty to turn his arms against the Swedes; and he accordingly drove them before him almost without opposition. By the beginning of January they were entirely expelled from the Prussian Pomerania, and Lehwald, in his turn, invaded their dominions. He, in a little time, subdued all the Swedish Pomerania, except Stralsund and the isle of Rugen, and possessed himself of several magazines which the enemy had established.

The Austrian army, after their defeat at Breslau, had retired into Bohemia, where they were cantoned, the head quarters being fixed at Koningsgratz. The king of Prussia having recovered all his part of Silesia, except the town of Schweldnitz, which

which he straitened with a blockade, sent detachments from his army cantoned in the neighbourhood of Breslau, to invade the Austrian or southern part of that province, where they reduced Troppau and Jaggorsdorf; while he himself remained at Breslau, entertaining his officers with concerts of music. Not that he suffered these amusements to divert his attention from more important objects. He layed Swedish Pomerania under contribution, and made a fresh demand of five hundred thousand crowns from the electorate of Saxony. Having received information, that the duke of Mecklembourg was employed in providing magazines for the French army, he detached a body of troops into that country, who not only took possession of the magazines, but levied considerable contributions; and the duke retired to Lubeck, accompanied by the French minister.

In order to give the reader a more distinct idea of the transactions of this campaign in Germany, it may not be improper to acquaint him that the forces brought into the field by the empress-queen of Hungary, the states of the Empire, the Czarina, and the kings of France and Sweden, fell very little short of three hundred thousand men; whereas the armies, maintained by the

160 *The History of* ENGLAND.

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kings of Great Britain and Prussia, the only powers that acted on the other side, did not amount to above two hundred and twenty thousand. The consequence of this inequality was, that the confederates of the former party gained many advantages over those of the opposite side, by invading, and even conquering their dominions, particularly Hanover, the government of which was now entirely changed.

In the month of December of the preceding year, a farmer of the revenues from Paris arrived at Hanover, where he established his office, in order to act by virtue of powers from one John Faigy, to whom the French king had granted the direction, receipt, and administration of all the duties and revenues of the electorate. This director was, by a decree of the council of state, impowered to receive the revenues not only of Hanover, but also of all other countries that should be subjected to his most Christian majesty in the course of the campaign; and to remove the receivers who had been employed in any part of the direction, receipt, and administration of the duties and revenues of Hanover, and appoint others in their room.

The French king, by the same decree, ordained, that all persons who had been
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intrusted under the preceding government with titles, papers, accounts, registers, or estimates, relating to the administration of the revenues, should communicate them to John Faidy, or his attornies; that the magistrates of the towns, districts, and commonalties, as well as those who directed the administration of particular states and provinces, should deliver to the said John Faidy, or his attornies, the produce of six years of the duties and revenues belonging to the said towns, districts, and provinces, reckoning from the first of January in the year 1751, together with an authentic account of the sums they had payed during that term to the preceding sovereign, and of the charges necessarily incurred.

It appears, from the contents of this decree, which was dated on the eighteenth day of October, that immediately after the conventions of Closter-seven and Bremeworden,* the court of Versailles had determined to change the government and system of the electorate, contrary to an express article of the capitulation granted to the city of

* Six days after the convention was signed at Closter-seven, another act of accommodation was concluded at Bremeworden, between the generals Sporcken and Vallemur, relating to the release of prisoners, and some other points omitted in the convention.

of Hanover, when it surrendered on the ninth day of August; and that the crown of France intended to take advantage of the cessation of arms, in seizing places and provinces which were not yet subdued; for, by the decree abovementioned, the administration of John Faigy extended to the countries which might hereafter be conquered. With what regard to justice, then, could the French government charge the king of Great Britain, as elector of Hanover, with the infraction of articles? or what respect to good faith and humanity did the duke de Richlieu observe, in the order issued from Zell, towards the end of the year, importing, that as the treaty made with the country of Hanover had been rendered void by the violation of the articles signed at Closter-seven, all the effects belonging to the officers, or others, employed in the Hanoverian army, should be confiscated for the use of his most Christian majesty?

The landgrave of Hesse-Cassel, being desirous of securing his dominions against the like calamities, not only promised to renounce all connection with the kings of Great Britain and Prussia, but even solicited the court of France to receive him into the number of its dependants; for, on the eighteenth day of October, the minister of the

the duc de Deuxponts, delivered at Versailles, in the name of the landgrave; the plan of a treaty to be founded on the following conditions: that the landgrave should enter into no engagement against the French king and his allies; nor give any assistance, directly or indirectly, to the enemies of his majesty and the other confederates: that he should never give his vote, in the general or particular assemblies of the empire, against his majesty's interest; but, on the contrary, employ his influence, jointly with France, to quiet the troubles of the empire; and that, for this end, his troops, which had served in the Hanoverian army, should engage in the service of France, on condition that they should not act, in the present war, against his Britannic majesty: that, immediately after the ratification of the treaty, his most Christian majesty should restore the dominions of the landgrave in the same condition they were in when subdued by the French forces: that these dominions should be exempted from all further contributions, either in money, corn, forage, wood, or cattle, though already imposed on the subjects of Hesse; and the French troops pay for all the provision with which they might be supplied; in which case the landgrave should exact no
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156. *The History of ENGLAND.*

toll for warlike stores, provisions, or other articles of that nature, which might pass through his dominions: that the king of France should guaranty all his estates, all the rights of the house of Hesse-Cassel, particularly the act of assurance signed by his son, the hereditary prince, with regard to religion; use his interest with the emperor, and the empress-queen, that, in consideration of the immense losses and damages his most serene highness had suffered since the French invaded his country, and of the great sums he should lose with England in arrears and subsidies by this accommodation, he might be excused from furnishing his contingent to the army of the empire, as well as from paying the Roman months granted by the dyet of the empire; and if, in resentment of this convention, the estates of his serene highness should be attacked, his most Christian majesty should afford the most speedy and effectual succours.

This treaty, it must be confessed, exhibits but a very indifferent specimen of the fidelity of a German ally. The landgrave of Hesse-Cassel had been retained as a subsidiary of England, even in time of peace, when his friendship could not avail, nor his enmity prejudice the interests of Great-Britain: but he had been retained in that
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season of tranquillity as a friend, on whose services the most implicit dependence might be placed in any future storm or commotion. How little he merited this confidence and favour, appeared too plainly by his present conduct, when the cause of Hanover seeming to be on the decline, and his own dominions having suffered so much by the fate of war, he not only discovered an inclination to abandon his benefactor and ally, but even sued to be enlisted into the service of his adversary. This intended defection was, however, prevented by a sudden turn of fortune, which he could not possibly foresee; and his troops continued to act in conjunction with the Hanoverians.

Nor was the landgrave of Hesse-Cassel the only prince that acted this ungrateful and disingenuous part towards the king of Great Britain. The duke of Brunswic, still more nearly connected with that monarch, used such uncommon expedition in detaching himself from the sinking fortune of Hanover, that, in ten days after the convention of Closter-seven, he concluded a treaty with the courts of Vienna and Versailles; so that, in all probability, the negotiation must have been begun before that convention took place. On the twentieth day of September his minister at Vienna,
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by virtue of full powers from the duke of Brunswic, accepted and signed the conditions which the French king and his Austrian ally thought proper to prescribe.

These imported, that his most Christian majesty should keep possession of the cities of Brunswic and Wolfembutte during the war, and make use of the artillery, arms, and military stores deposited in their arsenals: that the duke's forces, on their return from the camp of the duke of Cumberland, should be disbanded and disarmed; and take an oath, that they should not, during the present war, serve against the king or his allies: that the duke should be permitted to maintain a battalion of foot, and two squadrons of horse, for the guard of his person and castles; but the regulations made by the mareschal Richelieu and the intendant of his army should subsist on their present footing: that the duke should furnish his contingent in money and troops, agreeably to the laws of the empire: that his forces should immediately join those which the Germanic body had assembled: and that he should order his minister at Ratisbon to vote conformably to the resolutions of the dyet, approved and confirmed by the emperor.

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In return for all these concessions the duke was restored to the favour of the French king, who graciously promised that neither his revenues nor his treasure should be touched, nor the administration of justice invaded; and that nothing further should be demanded, but winter-quarters for the regiments which should pass that season in the country of Brunswick.

How faithfully soever the duke might have intended to perform the articles of this treaty, his intentions were defeated by his brother prince Ferdinand, who, being invested with the command of the Hanoverian army, and ordered to resume the operations of war against the enemy, detained the troops of Brunswick, as well as his nephew the hereditary prince, notwithstanding the treaty which his brother had signed, and the injunctions which he had laid upon his son to retire from the army, and make a tour to Holland. The duke either was, or affected to be, so offended at this step in his brother, that he wrote him, with his own hand, the following letter.

“ S I R,

“ I know you too well to doubt that the
 “ situation in which we stand at present,
 “ with respect to each other, gives you a-
 “ bundance of uneasiness; nor will you
 Vol. XLIII. P “ doubt

“doubt that it gives me equal concern : in-
 “deed it afflicts me greatly. Mean while,
 “I could never, my dearest brother, have
 “believed that you would be the person
 “who should carry away from me my eldest
 “son. I am exceedingly mortified to find
 “myself under the hard necessity of telling
 “you, that this step is contrary to the law
 “of nations, and the constitutions of the
 “empire; and that, if you persist in it,
 “you will disgrace your family, and bring
 “a stain upon your country, which you
 “pretend to serve.

“The hereditary prince, my son, was at
 “Hamburgh by my order, and you have
 “carried him to Stade. Could he distrust
 “his uncle, an uncle who hath done so
 “much honour to his family? Could he
 “believe that this uncle would deprive
 “him of liberty, a liberty never refused to
 “the lowest officer? I ordered him to make
 “a tour to Holland : could not the lowest
 “officer have done as much? Let us sup-
 “pose, for a moment, that my troops, a-
 “mong whom he served, were to have
 “stayed with the Hanoverians; would it
 “not still have been in my power to give
 “an officer leave of absence, or even leave
 “to resign his commission? and would you
 “hinder your brother, the head of your
 “fa-

“ family, and of such a family as ours, to
 “ exercise this right with regard to a son,
 “ who is the hereditary prince, of whose
 “ rights and prerogatives you cannot be ig-
 “ norant ? It is impossible you could have
 “ conceived such designs, without the sug-
 “ gestion of others. Those who did sug-
 “ gest them have trampled on the rights of
 “ nature, of nations, and of the princes of
 “ Germany : they have induced you to add
 “ to all these the most cruel insult on a bro-
 “ ther whom you love, and who always
 “ loved you with the warmest affection.

“ Would you have your brother lay his
 “ just complaints against you before the
 “ whole empire, and all Europe ? Are not
 “ your proceedings without example ? What
 “ is Germany become ? What are its prin-
 “ ces become, and our house in particular ?
 “ Is it the interest of the two kings, the
 “ cause of your country, and my cause, that
 “ you pretend to support ?—I repeat it,
 “ brother, that this design could never have
 “ been framed by you. I again command
 “ my son to pursue his journey ; and I can-
 “ not conceive you will give the least ob-
 “ struction : if you should (which I pray God
 “ avert) I solemnly declare, that I will not
 “ be constrained by such measures, nor shall
 “ I ever forget what I owe to myself.

“ As to my troops, you may see what I
 “ have written on that head to the Hano-
 “ verian ministry. The duke of Cumber-
 “ land, by the convention of Closter-seven,
 “ dismissed them, and sent them home: the
 “ said ministry gave me notice of this con-
 “ vention, as a treaty by which I was
 “ bound. The march of the troops was
 “ settled; and an incident happening, they
 “ halted: that obstacle being removed,
 “ they were to have continued their march.
 “ The court of Hanover will be no longer
 “ bound by the convention; while I not
 “ only accepted it on their word, but have
 “ also, in conformity with their instructi-
 “ ons, negotiated at Versailles, and at Vi-
 “ enna. After all these steps, they would
 “ have me contradict myself, break my
 “ word, and intirely ruin my estate, as well
 “ as my honour. Did you ever know your
 “ brother guilty of such things?

“ True it is, I have, as you say, sacri-
 “ ficed my all; or rather, I have been sa-
 “ crificed. The only thing left me is my
 “ honour; and, in the unhappy contrast
 “ of our situations, I lament both you and
 “ myself, that it should be from you, my
 “ dear brother, I should receive the cruel
 “ advice to give up my honour. I cannot
 “ listen to it: I cannot recede from my
 “ pro-

“ promise. My troops, therefore, must re-
 “ turn home, agreeably to what the duke
 “ of Cumberland and the Hanoverian mi-
 “ nistry stipulated with regard to me in the
 “ strongest manner. I am afraid that the
 “ true circumstances of things are concealed
 “ from you. Not to detain your express
 “ too long, I shall send you, by the post,
 “ copies of all I have written to the Hano-
 “ verian ministry. It will grieve your honest
 “ heart to read it. I am, with an heart al-
 “ most broken, yet full of tenderness for
 “ you, your, &c.”

Notwithstanding this warm remonstrance, prince Ferdinand detained the troops, and the hereditary prince, who, being fond of the service, in a little time distinguished himself by very extraordinary acts of bravery and conduct; and means were found to reconcile his father to measures that were more contrary to his engagements than his inclinations.

The defeat of the French army at Rosbach, and the retreat of the Russians from Pomerania, had intirely altered the face of affairs in Germany. The French king was soon obliged to abandon his conquests on that side of the Rhine, and his threats founded no longer terrible in the ears of the Hanoverian and Prussian allies. As little formidable were the denunciations of the emperor, who had, by a decree of the Au-

lic council, communicated to the dyet certain mandates, issued in the month of August in the preceding year, on pain of the ban of the empire, with avocatory letters annexed, against the king of Great Britain, elector of Hanover, and the other princes acting in concert with the king of Prussia.

The French court likewise published a scurrilous memorial, after the convention of Closter-seven had been violated and set aside, drawing an invidious comparison between the conduct of the French king and the proceedings of his Britannic majesty; in which the latter is charged with breach of faith, and almost every meanness that could stain the character of a monarch. In answer to the emperor's decree, and this virulent charge, baron Gimmengen, the electoral minister of Brunswic Lunenbourg, presented to the dyet, in November, a long memorial, recapitulating the important services his sovereign had performed to the house of Austria, and the ungrateful returns he had reaped, in the queen's refusing to assist him, when his dominions were threatened with an invasion. He enumerated many instances, in which she had countenanced, encouraged, and even joined the enemies of the electorate, in violation of her former engagements, and directly contrary to the
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constitution of the empire. He refused, to the satisfaction of the whole world, every article of the charge which the French court had brought against him in their virulent libel, retorted the imputations of perfidy and ambition, and, with respect to France, justified every particular of his own conduct.

While the French and Hanoverian forces continued in their winter quarters, the former at Zell, and the latter at Lunenbourg, divers petty rencounters happened between the detached parties of the two armies. The Hanoverian general Juncheim, having taken post at Halberstadt and Quedlimburg, from whence he made excursions even to the gates of Brunswic, and kept the French army in continual alarm, he was attacked by a large body of the enemy, who compelled him to retire to Ackerleben; committed great outrages in the town of Halberstadt and its neighbourhood, and carried off hostages for the payment of contributions.

General Hardenberg, another Hanoverian officer, having dislodged the French detachments that occupied Burgh, Vogelsack, and Ritterhude, and cleared the whole territory of Bremen, in the month of January the duke of Broglie collected a considerable
corps

176 *The History of* ENGLAND.

corps of troops that were cantoned at Otterburg, Rothenburg, and the adjacent country, and advancing to Bremen demanded admittance, threatening, that in case of a refusal he would proceed to extremities, and punish the inhabitants severely, should they make the least resistance. When their deputies waited upon him to desire a short time for deliberation, he answered, "Not a moment—the duke de Richlieu's orders are peremptory, and admit of no delay."

He accordingly ordered the cannon to be brought up, the wall was scaled, and the gates would have been forced open, had not the magistrates, at the earnest importunity of the people, resolved to comply with his demand. A second deputation was immediately dispatched to the duke of Broglio, signifying their submission; and the gates being opened, he marched into the city at midnight, after having promised, upon his honour, that no attempt should be made to the prejudice of its rights and prerogatives, nor any outrage offered to the privileges of the regency, to the liberty, religion, or commerce of the inhabitants.

This conquest, however, was of short duration. Prince Ferdinand being joined by a body of Prussian horse, under the command of prince George of Holstein-Gottorp,

torp, the whole army began its march and advanced to the country of Bremen about the middle of February. The enemy were driven from Rottenburg, Ottersburg, and Verden, and they abandoned the city of Bremen at the approach of the Hanoverian general, who entered it without opposition.

By this time the court of Versailles, being dissatisfied with the conduct of the duke de Richlieu, had recalled that general from Germany, and bestowed the command of the army upon the count de Clermont, to the general satisfaction of the army, as well as to the joy of the Hanoverian subjects, among whom Richelieu had committed many flagrant acts of cruelty and oppression. The new commander found his master's forces reduced to a deplorable condition, by the accidents of war, the relaxation of discipline, the severity of the weather, the want of almost every necessary. As he could not pretend, with such a ruined army, to oppose the designs of prince Ferdinand in the field, or even preserve the ground which his predecessor had gained, he found himself under the necessity of retiring with all possible expedition towards the Rhine. As the allies advanced, his troops retreated from their different quarters with such precipitation,

178 *The History of* ENGLAND.

pitiation, as to leave behind them all their sick, together with a great part of their baggage and artillery, besides a great number of officers and soldiers, that fell into the hands of those parties by whom they were pursued.

The inhabitants of Hanover, hearing that the French intended to evacuate their city, were filled with apprehensions of being subjected to every species of violence and abuse: but their fears were happily disappointed by the honour and integrity of the duke de Randan, the French governor, who not only took effectual measures for restraining the soldiers within the bounds of the most rigid discipline, but likewise exhibited a noble proof of generosity and moderation. Instead of destroying his magazine of provisions, according to the usual practice of war, he ordered the whole to be either sold at a low price, or distributed among the poor of the city, who had been long exposed to the horrors of famine: an act of godlike humanity, which ought to dignify the character of that worthy nobleman above all the titles that military fame can deserve or arbitrary monarchs bestow.

The two grand divisions of the French army, quartered at Zell and Hanover, retired in good order to Hamelen, where they
assem-

assembled all their forces, except those that were left in Hoya, and about four thousand men placed in garrison at Minden, to intercept the progress of the combined army. Towards the latter end of February, prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, having received intelligence that the count de Chabot was posted with a considerable body of troops at Hoya upon the Weser, detached the hereditary prince of Brunswic with four battalions, and some light troops and dragoons, to oblige him to retire from that neighbourhood. This enterprize was executed with equal spirit and success. The hereditary prince crossed the Weser at Bremen with part of his detachment, while the rest advanced on this side of the river; and the enemy, being attacked in front and rear, were in a little time forced, and thrown into confusion.

The bridge being abandoned, and near seven hundred men taken prisoners, the count de Chabot threw himself with two battalions into the castle, where he resolved to defend himself in hope of being supported. The regiment of Bretagne and some detachments of dragoons were actually on the march to his assistance. The hereditary prince being informed of this circumstance, being also destitute of heavy artillery to
besiege

besiege the place in form, and apprehending, at the same time, that he should not be able to maintain the post after it might be taken, thought proper to listen to the terms of capitulation proposed by the French general, whose garrison was suffered to march out with the honours of war; but their cannon, stores, and ammunition, were delivered to the victor. This was the first exploit of the hereditary prince, who distinguished himself, on many subsequent occasions, by the most signal acts of valour and activity. He had no sooner subdued Hoya, than he advanced to the attack of Minden, which he invested on the fifth day of March, and on the fourteenth the garrison surrendered themselves prisoners of war.

After the reduction of this city, the allied army proceeded towards Hamelen, where the French general had established his head-quarters: but these he abandoned at the approach of the allies, and leaving behind him all his sick and wounded, with part of his magazines, retreated without halting to Paderborn, and from thence to the Rhine, recalling in his march the troops that were in Embden, Cassel, and the landgraviate of Hesse, all which places were now evacuated. The French were terribly annoyed in their march by the Prussian

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hussars, and a body of light horse, distinguished by the name of Hanoverian hunters, who took a great number of prisoners, together with many baggage-wagons and some artillery. Such was the precipitation of the enemy's retreat, that they could not find time to destroy all their magazines of provision and forage; and even forgot to call in the garrison of Vechte, a small fortress in the neighbourhood of Diepholt, who were made prisoners of war, and here was found a complete train of battering cannon and mortars.

The count de Clermont having arrived on the banks of the Rhine, distributed his forces into quarters of refreshment in Wesel and the adjoining country, while prince Ferdinand quartered the allied army in the bishopric of Munster. Here, however, he did not long remain inactive. In the latter end of May he detached colonel Scheither across the Rhine with a small detachment, which attacked, and defeated three battalions of the enemy, and took five pieces of cannon. In the beginning of June the whole army passed the Rhine, on a bridge built for the purpose, defeated a body of French cavalry, and obtained several other advantages in their march towards Wesel. Keiserworth was surprized, the greater part

182 *The History of ENGLAND.*

of the garrison either killed or taken ; and prince Ferdinand began to make preparations for the siege of Dusseldorp. In the mean time the count de Clermont, being unable to stop the rapidity of his progress, was obliged to secure his troops with strong intrenchments, until he should be properly reinforced.

The court of Versailles was equally mortified and confounded at this sudden turn of their affairs in Germany. Their ministers had been long the sport of female caprice : it was their power of pleasing a mistress, who governed their king, that alone enabled them to obtain posts under the government. Some of the most able men were turned out of their employments with disgrace : others retired from the public service with indignation ; and a certain low character had, for a long time, appeared in all the proceedings of the French, both in the field and the cabinet.

Even in their domestic disputes, where something of a free and manly spirit appeared, this spirit evaporated, and spent itself upon unworthy and despicable objects. These contests, which involved the church, the law, and the crown, weakened the whole nation ; and the state felt all the ill effects of a disunion of its orders, without seeing an aug-
mentation

mentation of power thrown into the scale of any.

But now taught by their misfortunes and disgraces, they were obliged to adopt an alteration in their conduct : they were forced to call men to the public service upon public principles ; at a time, indeed, when, in many respects, things could only be altered, not mended ; and when wise and able ministers could do little more by their penetration and public spirit, than to see and lament the ruin, caused by the want of those virtues in their predecessors.

The duke de Belleisle, known to all Europe for his great abilities, and his great exploits, was, at length, placed at the head of the military department, as secretary at war. On this occasion he delivered himself in the presence of his sovereign in council, with a spirit of patriotism, that does honour to his name.

“ I know, said he, the state of our armies. It gives me great grief and no less indignation : for, besides the real evil of the disorder in itself, the disgrace and infamy, which it reflects on our government, and on the whole nation, is more to be apprehended. The choice of officers ought to be made with mature deliberation. I know but too well, to

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“ what

“ what length the want of discipline, pil-
 “ laging and robbing, have been carried
 “ on by the officers and common men,
 “ after the example set them by their ge-
 “ nerals.

“ It mortifies me to think I am a French-
 “ man : my principles are known to be
 “ very different from those, which are now
 “ followed. I had the satisfaction to retain
 “ the esteem, the friendship, and regard of
 “ all the princes, noblemen, and even of
 “ all the common people, in all parts of
 “ Germany, where I commanded the king’s
 “ forces. They lived there in the midst of
 “ abundance : every one was pleased : it
 “ fills my soul with anguish to find, that,
 “ at present, the French are held in execra-
 “ tion ; that every body is dispirited ; and
 “ that many officers publicly say things,
 “ that are criminal, and highly punish-
 “ able.

“ The evil is so great, that it demands
 “ immediate redress. I can easily judge,
 “ by what passes in my own breast, of what
 “ our generals feel from the speeches they
 “ must daily hear in Germany, concerning
 “ our conduct ; which, indeed, would lose
 “ much to be compared with that of our
 “ allies. I must particularly complain of
 “ the delays and irregularity of the posts ;

“ a

“ a service, for which there has not yet
 “ been made any sufficient provision. I am
 “ likewise displeased with the negligence
 “ of our generals in returning answers;
 “ which is a manifest breach of their duty.

“ Had I commanded the army, a thou-
 “ sand things which are done, would not
 “ have been done; and others, which have
 “ been neglected, would have been execut-
 “ ed. I would have multiplied my com-
 “ munications: I would have had strong
 “ posts on the right, on the left, and
 “ in the center, lined with troops. I
 “ would have had magazines in every place.
 “ The quiet and satisfaction of the coun-
 “ try people, should have been equal to
 “ their present dissatisfaction at being har-
 “ rassed and plundered: and we should
 “ have been as much beloved, as we are
 “ at present abhorred. The consequences
 “ are too apparent to need being mentioned.
 “ I must insist on these things, because late
 “ redress is better than the continuation
 “ of the evil.”

This spirited harangue was followed by
 no less spirited resolutions. A large body
 of troops was assembled at Hanau, under
 the direction of the prince of Soubise, who,
 it was said, had orders to penetrate, by the
 way of Donawert, Ingoldstadt, and Arne-
 berg,

berg, into Bohemia. The army on the Rhine was likewise augmented: troops were every where drawn from the interior parts of the kingdom, towards the seat of action; and the fortifications on the frontiers were put into the best posture of defence, that the disordered state of the finances could possibly admit.

At the same time the duke de Belleisle wrote a letter, directed to all the colonels of infantry, threatening them, in the king's name, with the loss of their regiments, should they connive any longer at the scandalous practice of buying commissions: an abuse, which had crept into the service under various pretexts, to the discouragement of merit, the relaxation of discipline, and the total extinction of laudable emulation.

The prince of Clermont having abandoned his strong camp at Rhineseldt, retired to Nays a little higher up the river, and detached a considerable corps, under the command of the count de St. Germain, to take post at Crevelt, situated in a plain between his army and the camp of the allies, which fronted the town of Meurs. After several motions on both sides, prince Ferdinand determined to

attack the enemy, and forthwith made a disposition for this purpose.

He assigned the command of the whole left wing, consisting of eighteen battalions and twenty-eight squadrons, to lieutenant-general Sporcken: the conduct of the right wing, composed of sixteen battalions and fourteen squadrons, was intrusted to the hereditary prince and major-general Wangelheim; the squadrons, with the addition of two regiments of Prussian dragoons, were under the immediate direction of the prince of Holstein; while the hereditary prince commanded the infantry. The light troops, consisting of five squadrons of hussars, were divided between the prince of Holstein and lieutenant-general Sporcken. Major Luckner's squadron, together with Scheither's corps, were ordered to observe the flank of the enemy's right, and with this view were posted in the village of Papendeick; and a battalion of the troops of Hulse, to cover the rear of the army. Prince Ferdinand's design was to attack the enemy on their left flank; but the execution was rendered extremely difficult by the woods and ditches that encumbered the road, and the numerous ditches that intersected this part of the country.

On

On the twenty-third day of June, at four in the morning, the army began to move; the right advancing in two columns as far as St. Anthony, and the left marching up within half a league of Crevelt. The prince having surveyed the situation of the enemy from the steeple of St. Anthony, procured guides, and having obtained all the necessary hints of intelligence, proceeded to the right, in order to charge the enemy's left flank by the villages of Worst and Anrath; but, in order to distract their attention, and keep them in suspense with regard to the nature of his principal attack, he directed the generals Sporcken and Oberg to advance against them by the way of Crevelt and St. Anthony, and, in particular, to ply with vigour their artillery, that, being employed in three different places at once, they might be prevented from sending any reinforcement to the left, where the chief attack was intended.

This disposition being made, prince Ferdinand putting himself at the head of the grenadiers of the right wing, prosecuted his march in two columns to the village of Anrath, where he fell in with an advanced party of the French, which, after a few discharges of musquetry, retired to their camp and gave the alarm. In the mean
time

time both armies were drawn up in order of battle; the troops of the allies in the plain between the villages of Anrath and Willich, opposite to the French forces, whose left was secured by a wood. The action began about one in the afternoon, with a severe cannonading on the part of prince Ferdinand, which, though well served, was not able to draw the enemy from their cover: he therefore determined to dislodge them from the wood by dint of small arms. The hereditary prince immediately advanced with the whole front, and a very obstinate action ensued.

Mean while the cavalry on the right, in vain, endeavoured to penetrate the wood on the other side, where the enemy had raised two batteries, which were supported by forty squadrons of horse. After a terrible fire had continued on both sides till five in the afternoon, the grenadiers forced the intrenchments in the wood, which were lined by the French infantry. These giving way abandoned the wood in the utmost disorder; but the pursuit was checked by the conduct and resolution of the enemy's cavalry, which, notwithstanding a dreadful fire from the artillery of the allies, maintained their ground, and covered the foot in their retreat to Nuys.

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The success of the day was, in a good measure, owing to the artillery on the left and in the centre, under the direction of the generals Sporcken and Oberg, who plied the enemy with great vigour, and effectually employed their attention on that side, while prince Ferdinand prosecuted his attack on the other. It must be owned, however, that their right wing and centre retired in good order to Nuys, though the left was defeated with the loss of several standards, colours, and pieces of cannon, and six thousand men killed, wounded, or taken prisoners.

This victory, however important, was far from being decisive. True it is, the enemy were obliged to take refuge under the cannon of Cologne, and tamely to behold the reduction of Dusseldorp, which was subdued by prince Ferdinand, after a siege of a few days: nevertheless they were soon joined by such a number of fresh troops, as not only enabled them to make head against the allies, but even to send a considerable detachment to the assistance of Soubise.

It was at this period that the command of the French army was taken from the count de Clermont, and bestowed upon M. de Contades, who seemed determined to attack prince Ferdinand in his turn, and even
made

made some motions for that purpose. This scheme, however, he was prevented from carrying into execution by the little river Erff, behind which the prince resolved to lie quiet until he should be joined by the body of British troops, under the command of the duke of Marlborough, the first division of which had just landed at Embden. He flattered himself that the prince of Ysenbourg, at the head of the Hessian troops, would find employment for the prince de Soubise, who had marched from Hanau with a design to penetrate into the landgraviate of Hesse Cassel: his vanguard had been already surpris'd and defeated by the militia of the country; and the prince of Ysenbourg was at the head of a considerable body of regular forces, assembled to oppose his further progress.

Prince Ferdinand therefore hoped, that the operations of the French general would be effectually checked, until he himself, being reinforced by the British troops, should be able to pass the Meuse, transfer the seat of the war into the enemy's country, thus make a diversion from the Rhine, and perhaps oblige the prince of Soubise to come to the assistance of the principal French army, commanded by M. de Contades.

He

192 *The History of* ENGLAND.

He had formed a plan which would have answered these purposes effectually, and, in prosecution of it, advanced to Ruremond on the Maese, when his measures were totally disconcerted by a variety of incidents which he could not foresee. The prince of Ysenbourg was, on the twenty-third day of July, defeated at Sangerhausen by the duke de Broglie, whom the prince de Soubise had detached against him with a number of troops, greatly superior to that which the Hessian general commanded. The duke de Broglie, who commanded the vanguard of Soubise's army, having received intelligence, that the Hessian troops, under the prince of Ysenbourg, were retiring towards Munden, he marched, on the twenty-third of July, with a body of eight thousand men to the village of Sangerhausen, where he found them drawn up in order of battle; and forthwith made a disposition for the attack. At first his cavalry were repulsed by the Hessian horse, which charged the French infantry, and were broke in their turn.

The Hessians, though greatly inferior in number to the enemy, made a very desperate resistance, by favour of a rock in the Fulde that covered their right, and a wood by which their left was secured. The dispute was so obstinate that the enemy's left

was

was obliged to give ground; but the duke of Broglie ordering a fresh corps to advance, changed the fortune of the day. The Hessians, overpowered by numbers, were forced to recoil; part plunged into the river, where many perished, and part threw themselves into the wood, through which they escaped from the pursuit of the hussars, who took above two hundred soldiers and fifty officers, including the count de Canitz, who was second in command.

They likewise found on the field of battle seven pieces of cannon, and eight at Munden: but the loss of the enemy was much greater than that of the allies; above two thousand of the former being either killed or wounded in the action. The prince of Yienbourg having collected the remains of his little army, took post at Eimbeck, where he soon was reinforced, and found himself at the head of twelve thousand men: but in consequence of this advantage the enemy became masters of the Weser, and opened to themselves a free passage into Westphalia.

The operations of prince Ferdinand upon the Maese had been interrupted by a long succession of heavy rains, which broke up the roads, and rendered the country impassable; and now the certain information

of this unlucky defeat reduced him to the necessity of either retiring across the Rhine, or of coming to a battle: the latter was carefully declined by the enemy; the first resolution, therefore, he found himself unavoidably obliged to embrace. In his present position he was hemmed in by the French army on one wing, on the other by the fortress of Gueldre, the garrison of which had been lately reinforced, as well as by divers other posts, capable of obstructing the convoys and subsistence of the combined army: besides, he had reason to apprehend, that the prince de Soubise would endeavour to intercept the British troops in their march from Embden.

Induced by these considerations he resolved to repass the Rhine, after having offered battle to the enemy, and made several motions for that purpose. Finding them averse to an engagement, he made his dispositions for forcing the strong pass of Wachtendonck, an island surrounded by the Niers, of very difficult access, and situated exactly in his route to the Rhine. This scheme was executed by the hereditary prince of Brunswic, who perceiving the enemy had drawn up the bridge, rushed into the river at the head of his grenadiers, who drove them away with their bayonets, and

and cleared the bridges for the passage of the army towards Rhinebergen.

At this place prince Ferdinand was informed that Mr. de Chevert, one of the best officers in the French service, had crossed the Lippe with fourteen battalions and several squadrons, to reinforce the garrison of Wesel, and fall upon lieutenant-general Imhoff, who commanded a detached corps of the combined army at Meer, that he might be at hand to guard a bridge, which the prince had thrown over the Rhine at Rees. His serene highness was extremely desirous of giving some assistance to general Imhoff; but the troops were too much fatigued to begin this march before morning; and the Rhine had overflowed its banks in such a manner as to render the bridge at Rees impassable; so that Mr. Imhoff was left to the resources of his own conduct, and the bravery of his troops, consisting of six battalions and four squadrons, already weakened by the absence of different detachments.

This general having received intelligence on the fourth day of August, that the enemy designed to pass the Lippe that same evening with a considerable train of artillery, in order to burn the bridge at Rees, set out with a view to secure this place, and

join two battalions which had passed the Rhine in boats, under the command of general Zaltrow, who reinforced him accordingly; but the enemy not appearing, he concluded the information was false, and determined to resume his advantageous post at Meer. Of this he had no sooner regained possession, than he saw his out guards engaged with the enemy, who had marched to the attack from Wesel, under the command of lieutenant general de Chevert, consisting of the whole corps intended for the siege of Dusseldorp.

Imhoff's front was secured by coppices and ditches, there being a rising ground on his right, from whence he could plainly perceive the whole force that advanced against him, together with the manner of their approach. Observing them engaged in that difficult ground, he posted one regiment in a coppice, with orders to attack the left flank of the enemy, which appeared quite uncovered; and as soon as their fire began, he advanced with the rest of his forces to charge them in front. The bayonet was used on this occasion, and the attack made with such impetuosity and resolution, that after a short resistance, the enemy was thrown into confusion, and fled towards Wesel, leaving on the spot eleven pieces

pieces of cannon, with a great number of waggons and other carriage. Besides the killed and wounded, who amounted to a pretty considerable number, the victor took three hundred and fifty four prisoners, including eleven officers; and this advantage was gained with little or no loss on the side of the allies.

Immediately after this action, general Wangenheim crossed the Rhine with several squadrons and battalions to join general Imhoff, and enable him to improve the victory he had gained, while prince Ferdinand proceeded with the rest of the army to Santen: from whence he continued his march to Rhineberg, where he intended to pass; but the river had overflowed its banks to such a degree, that here, as well as at Rees, the shore was inaccessible; so that he found it necessary to march farther down the river, and lay a bridge at Griethuyzen. The enemy had constructed four vessels for the destruction of this bridge; but they were all happily taken before they could be executed, and the whole army passed on the tenth day of August, without any loss or further interruption. At the same time the prince withdrew his garrison from Dusseldorp, of which the French immediately took possession. Soon after his passage he

received a letter from the duke of Marlborough, informing him, that the British troops had arrived at Lingen, in their way to Coesfeldt; to which place general Imhoff was sent, with a strong detachment, to receive them: but, notwithstanding this junction, the two armies on the Rhine were so equally matched, that no stroke of importance was struck on either side during the remaining part of the campaign.

Mr. de Contades, seeing no prospect of gaining any advantage over prince Ferdinand, detached prince Xaverius of Saxony with a strong body of troops to reinforce the prince de Soubise, who had seized Gottingen, and seemed resolved to attack the prince of Ysenbourg at Eimbeck. That this officer might be the better able to stand his ground, prince Ferdinand detached general Oberg with ten thousand men to Lipstadt, from whence, should occasion require, they might continue their march, and join the Hessians. The whole body, when thus united, did not exceed twenty thousand men, of whom general Oberg now assumed the command; whereas the troops of Soubise amounted to no less than thirty thousand.

The allies had entrenched themselves upon the river Fulde at Sanderhausen, where

where they hoped the French would attack them; but the design of Soubise was first to dislodge them from that advantageous situation. With this view he made a motion, as if he had intended to pass the camp of the allies by the road of Munden. In order to prevent the execution of this supposed design, general Oberg decamped on the tenth of October, and, passing by the village of Landwernhagen, proceeded towards Luttenberg; where, being informed the enemy were at his heels, he forthwith drew up his troops in order of battle, his right to the Fulde, and his left extending to a thicket upon an eminence, where he planted five pieces of artillery. The cavalry covered the wings in a third line; the village of Luttenberg was in the rear, and four pieces of cannon were mounted on a rising ground that flanked this village.

The French, having likewise passed Landwernhagen, posted their left towards the Fulde, their right extending far beyond the left of the allies, and their front being secured by above thirty pieces of cannon. At four in the afternoon the enemy began the battle with a severe cannonading, and at the same time the first line of their infantry attacked major-general Zalkrow, who was posted on the left wing
of

of the allies. This body of the French was repulsed; but, in the same moment, a considerable line of cavalry advancing, charged the allies in front and flank. These were sustained by a fresh body of infantry with cannon, which, after a warm dispute, compelled the confederates to give ground; and general Oberg, in order to prevent a total defeat, made a disposition for a retreat, which was performed in tolerable order; not but that he suffered greatly, in passing through a defile, from the fire of the enemy's cannon, which was brought up, and managed under the direction of the duke de Broglie. Having marched through Munden by midnight, the retiring army lay till morning under arms in the little plain near Grupen, on the other side of the Weser; but at day-break continued their march, after having withdrawn the garrison from Munden, until they arrived in the neighbourhood of Gunterstheim, where they encamped.

In this engagement, about fifteen hundred of the allies were either killed or wounded, though the loss of the enemy was much more considerable. General Oberg, however, was obliged to abandon a magazine of hay and straw at Muden, and leave part of his wounded men in that place

place to the humanity of the victor. Nevertheless the French general reaped very little advantage from his victory.

By this time prince Ferdinand had retired into Westphalia, and fixed his head quarters at Munster, while Mr. Contades encamped near Ham upon the Lippe: so that, notwithstanding the great increase of the French army, they were not able to make any farther progress during the remaining part of the season. The British troops had joined the allies so late in the year, that they had no opportunity to distinguish themselves in the field; yet the fatigues of the campaign, which they severely felt, proved fatal to their commander, the duke of Marlborough, who died of a dysentery at Munster, universally regretted.

Having thus related the operations of the allied army, during this campaign, we shall now endeavour to trace the steps of the king of Prussia, from the period at which his army was assembled for action. Having collected his forces as soon as the season would permit, he invested the town of Schweidnitz in form on the twenty-first day of March; and carried on his attacks with such unremitting vigour, that, in thirteen days, the garrison surrendered themselves

selves prisoners of war, after having lost one half of their number in the defence of the place.

While one part of his troops were employed in this service, he himself at the head of another advanced to the eastern frontier of Bohemia, and detached a strong body as far as Trawtenaw, garrisoned by a party of Austrians, who, after an obstinate defence, abandoned the place, and retreated towards their grand army. By this conquest he opened to himself a passage into Bohemia, by which he poured in detachments of light troops, to levy contributions, and annoy the out-posts of the enemy. At the same time the baron de la Mothe Fouquet marched with another body against the Austrian general Jahnus, posted in the county of Glatz, whom he compelled to abandon all the places he possessed in that country, and pursued as far as Nachod, within twenty miles of Koningsgratz, where the grand Austrian army was encamped, under the command of mareschal Daun, who had lately arrived from Vienna.

Over and above these operations, the king ordered a body of thirty thousand men to be assembled, to act under the command of his brother prince Henry, an accom-
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plished general, against the army of the empire, which the prince of Deuxponts had, with great difficulty, made shift to collect once more in the district of Franconia,

The king of Prussia, being bent upon prosecuting the campaign with the utmost vigour, resolved to change the theatre of the war, and penetrate into Moravia, a fertile country, which had hitherto been kept free from all kinds of hostility. Having formed an army of fifty thousand choice troops, near Niefs in Silesia, he divided them into three columns; the first commanded by mareschal Keith, the second by himself in person, and the third conducted by the prince of Anhalt Dessau.

In the latter end of April they began their march towards Moravia; and general De la Ville, who commanded a body of Austrians in that country, retired as they approached, after having reinforced the garrison of Olmutz, which the king was determined to besiege. The place, accordingly, was immediately invested; orders were issued to hasten up the heavy artillery; and mareschal Keith was appointed to superintend and direct the operations of the siege.

Mean while count Daun, being informed of his Prussian majesty's motions and intentions

tions, decamped with his army from Leutomysel in Bohemia, and entered Moravia by the way of Billa. Being still too weak to oppose the Prussians in the field, he extended his troops in the neighbourhood of the king's army, between Gewitz and Littau, in a mountainous situation, where he ran little or no risque of being attacked. Here he continued for some time in quiet, with the fertile country of Bohemia in his rear, from whence he received supplies of provision, and was daily joined by fresh reinforcements.

His design was to relieve the besieged occasionally, to annoy the besiegers, and to cut off their convoys from Silesia; and this scheme succeeded to his wish. Olmutz is so extensive in its works, and so advantageously situated on the river Morava, that it could not be completely invested without weakening the posts of the besiegers, by extending them to a prodigious circuit; so that, in some parts, they were easily forced by detachments in the night, who fell upon them suddenly, and seldom failed to introduce into the place supplies of men, provision, and ammunition. The forage in the neighbourhood having been previously destroyed, the Prussian horse were obliged to make excursions at a distance for this
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necessary article ; by which means they were exposed to fatigue and liable to surprize.

Count Daun knew how to take advantage of these circumstances, without trying the chance of a battle, to which the king provoked him in vain. While the garrison, by repeated sallies, interrupted the operations of the besieged, the Austrian general annoyed their foraging parties, fell upon different quarters of their army in the night, and kept them in continual alarm. Nevertheless, the king completed his first parallel ; and proceeded with such vigour as seemed to promise a speedy reduction of the place, when his design was intirely defeated by one untoward incident.

Mareschal Daun, having received intelligence, that a large convoy had set out from Silesia for the Prussian camp, determined to lay hold of this opportunity, to compel the king to relinquish his enterprize. For this purpose, he sent general Jahnus with a strong body of troops towards Bahrn, and another detachment to Stadto-liebe, with instructions to attack the convoy on different sides ; while he himself marched up to the besiegers, as if he intended to give them battle. The king of Prussia, far from being deceived by this

feint, could easily, from the motion of the Austrian general, discover his design, and immediately dispatched general Zietben with a strong-reinforcement to protect the convoy, which was escorted by eight battalions, and about four thousand men who had been sick and were just recovered. Before this officer had joined them, the convoy had been attacked on the twenty-eighth day of June; but the assailants were repulsed with considerable loss.

Mareschal Daun, however, took care that they should be immediately reinforced; and the next day the attack was renewed with redoubled vigour. Four hundred waggons, guarded by four battalions, and about one thousand troopers, had just passed the defiles of Domstadt, when the Austrians charged them furiously on every side: the communication, between the head and the rest of the convoy was cut off; and general Zietben, after having exerted all his efforts for its preservation, being obliged to abandon the waggons, retired to Tropau. Thus the whole convoy fell into the hands of the enemy, who took above six hundred prisoners, together with general Putkammer; and the king of Prussia was obliged to abandon his enterprise.

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This was a mortifying necessity to a prince of his high spirit, at a time when he saw himself on the point of reducing the place; notwithstanding the gallant defence made by the garrison under general Marshal, the governor. Nothing now remained but to raise the siege, and retire without loss in the face of a vigilant enemy, prepared to seize every opportunity of advantage: a task, which, however difficult and dangerous, he executed with a wonderful dexterity. Instead of withdrawing into Silesia, he resolved to avert the war from his own dominions, and take the route of Bohemia, the frontiers of which were left quite open by mareschal Daun's last motion, when he advanced with his troops to Posenitz, in order the more effectually to relieve Olmutz.

After the king had concerted his measures, he carefully concealed his design from the enemy, and, notwithstanding the loss of his convoy, continued the operations of the siege with redoubled vigour, till the first day of July, when he decamped in the night, and began his march to Bohemia. He himself with one division took the road of Kenitz; and mareschal Keith having brought away all the artillery, except four mortars, and one disabled can-

non, pursued his march by the way of Littau to Muglitz and Tribau.

Although his Prussian majesty had gained an entire march upon the Austrians, their light troops, commanded by the generals Buccow and Laudohn, did not fail to harass him in his retreat; but their endeavours were, in a great measure, defeated by the conduct and circumspection of the Prussian commanders. After the rear of the army had passed the defiles of Krenau, general Laschi, who was posted at Gibau with a large body of Austrians, took possession of the village of Krenau with a detachment of grenadiers, who were soon dislodged; and the Prussians continued their march by Zwittau to Leutomysfel, where they seized a magazine of meal and forage. In the mean time, general Retzow, who conducted the provisions and artillery, found the hills of Hollitz occupied by the enemy, who cannonaded him as he approached; but mareschal Keith advancing, ordered them to be attacked in the rear, and they fled into a wood with precipitation, with the loss of six officers and three hundred men, who were taken prisoners.

While the mareschal was thus employed, the king proceeded from Leutomysfel to Koninsgratz, where general Buccow, who had

had got the start of him, was posted with seven thousand Austrians behind the Elbe, and in the intrenchments which they had formed all around the city. The Prussian troops immediately crossed the little river Adler; and as the enemy had destroyed the bridges over the Elbe, the king ordered them to be repaired with all expedition, being firmly resolved to force the Austrian intrenchments: but general Buccow did not wait his approach. He abandoned his intrenchments, and withdrew with his troops to Clumetz; so that the king took possession of the most important post of Koninigratz without farther opposition.

An Austrian corps having taken post between him and Hollitz, in order to interrupt the march of the artillery, he advanced against them in person, and having dislodged them from the place, all his cannon, military stores, provision, with fifteen hundred sick and wounded men arrived in safety at Koninigratz, where the whole army encamped. His intention was to remove the seat of war from Moravia to Bohemia, where he should be able to preserve a more easy communication with his own dominions: but a more powerful motive soon obliged him to alter his resolution.

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After the Russian troops, under mareschal Apraxin, had retired from Pomerania in the course of the preceding year, and the czarina seemed inclined to adopt new measures, the courts of Vienna and Versailles had, by dint of subsidies, promises, presents, and intrigues, attached her, in all appearance, more firmly than ever to the confederacy, and even prevailed with her to encrease the number of troops, destined to act against the Prussian monarch. She not only signed her accession in form to the quadruple alliance with the empress queen and the kings of France and Sweden; but, in order to demonstrate her zeal for the common cause, she disgraced her chancellor count Bestuchef, who was thought to be averse to the war: she divided her troops into separate bodies, under the command of the generals Fermer and Brown, and ordered them to begin their march in the middle of winter.

Fermer accordingly put his army in motion in the beginning of January, and on the twenty-second his light troops took possession of Koningsherg, the capital of Prussia, without opposition; for the king's forces had left that country, in order to prosecute the war in the western parts of Pomerania. They did not, however, continue
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long in this part of the country ; but, after having pillaged some districts, returned to the main body, which halted on the Vistula, to the no small disturbance of the city of Dantzick, where the resident of the czarina actually demanded that the magistrates should admit a Russian garrison : a demand, which they not only peremptorily refused, but ordered all the citizens to arms, and took every other method to oppose force by force.

At length, after some negotiation with general Fermer, the affair was compromised ; he desisted from the demand, and part of his troops crossed the Vistula, seemingly with a view to invade Pomerania, in the eastern part of which count Dohna had collected a strong body of Prussians to put a stop to their progress. But after they had plundered the open country, they rejoined their main body ; and general Fermer, turning to the left, proceeded towards Silesia, in order to act in concert with the other Russian army commanded by Brown, who had taken his route through Poland, and already passed the Posna. By the first of July, both armies had reached the frontiers of Silesia, and some of the cossacks, penetrating into that province, had committed dreadful

ravages, and filled the inhabitants with terror and consternation.

Count Dohna, with the Prussian army under his command, had carefully observed their motions, and even crossed the Oder at Franckfort, as if he intended to attack them: but he was too much inferior in number to hazard such a step, which became an object of his sovereign's own personal attention.

With this view the king made his dispositions for retreating from Bohemia, and on the twenty-fifth day of July quitted the camp of Koningsgratz. He was harrassed in his march by three thousand Austrian light troops, detached by count Daun, who had followed him into Bohemia: but notwithstanding these impediments, he passed the Mittau, proceeded on his route, and on the ninth day of August arrived at Landshut.

From thence he hastened with a detachment towards Franckfort on the Oder, and joined the army commanded by lieutenant-general Dohna at Gorgas. Then the whole army crossed the Oder by a bridge laid over it at Gatavise, and having rested one day, advanced to Dertmitzel, where they encamped. The Russians, under general Fermer, were posted on the other side of the
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little river Mitzel, their right reaching to the village of Zwicker, and their left to Quertchem.

The king being determined immediately to attack them, crossed the Mitzel on the twenty fifth in the morning, and passing the left flank of the enemy, drew up his army in order of battle in the plain between the little river and the town of Zorndorf. The Russians, who were superior to him in number, did not decline the engagement; but as the ground would not allow them to extend themselves in length, they were ranged in four lines, forming a front on every side, defended by cannon and chevaux de frise, their right flank being secured by the village of Zwicker. After a severe cannonade, the Prussian infantry were ordered to attack the village, and a body of grenadiers advanced to the assault; but this brigade unexpectedly giving way, occasioned a considerable opening in the line, and left the whole left flank of the infantry uncovered.

Before the enemy could profit by this disorder, the interval was filled up by the cavalry under the command of general Seydlitz; and the king, with his usual presence of mind, substituted another choice body of troops, to carry on the attack.

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214 *The History of ENGLAND.*

This began about noon, and continued for some time, during which both sides fought with equal courage and perseverance: at length, general Seydlitz, having routed the Russian cavalry, attacked the flank of the infantry with such impetuosity, that being also dreadfully annoyed by the Prussian artillery, they abandoned the village, together with their military chest, and great part of their baggage. Notwithstanding this loss, which had greatly disordered their right wing, they continued to stand their ground; and dreadful havock was made among them, not only with the sword and bayonet, but also by the cannon, which was loaded with grape-shot, and being excellently served, did great execution.

Towards evening they were thrown into such terrible confusion, that in all probability they would have been intirely routed, had they not been favoured by the approaching darkness, as well as by a particular operation, which was performed with equal spirit and success. One of the Russian generals perceiving the fortune of the day turned against them, rallied a select body of troops, and made a vigorous impression on the right wing of the Prussians. This effort diverted their attention so strongly to that quarter, that the right of the
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Russians enjoyed a respite, during which they retired in tolerable order, and occupied a new post in the night, where the rest of their forces were the more easily assembled.

In this battle they are said to have lost above twenty thousand men, thirty-seven colours, five standards, twelve mortars, the greater part of their baggage, and above one hundred pieces of cannon. Among the prisoners that fell into the hands of the victor, there were several general officers, and a good number lost their lives on the field of battle. The loss of the king did not amount to above two thousand men, including some officers of distinction, particularly two aids-du-camp, who attended his own person, which he exposed without scruple in the hottest parts of the battle. The carnage, in all probability, would not have been so great, had not the Prussians been, in a peculiar manner, exasperated against this enemy, because they had laid waste the country, burned the villages, ruined the peasants, and committed many other horrid acts of barbarity, which the practice of war could not authorize.

The Prussian army remained all night under arms, and next morning renewed the cannonading against the enemy, who, never-

216 *The History of* ENGLAND.

vertheless, maintained their post without flinching. On the twenty-seventh, they seemed determined to hazard another action, and even to attack the conquerors in their turn: instead of advancing, however, they took the route of Landsberg; but afterwards wheeled off towards Vietzel, and intrenched themselves in a strong camp between the river Warta and that village.

End of the FORTY-THIRD VOLUME.

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